











Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2010 with funding from  
Duke University Libraries







OFFICIAL REPORTS  
OF  
GENERALS JOHNSTON AND BEAUREGARD

OF THE  
BATTLE OF MANASSAS,

JULY 21ST, 1861.

—ALSO—

OFFICIAL REPORTS

*Of the Battle of 10th Sept., Brig. Gen. Floyd commanding ;  
Engagement at Oak Hill, Mo., Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch  
commanding ; Engagement at Lewinsville, Sept. 11th, Col.  
J. E. B. Stuart commanding ; Engagement on Greenbrier  
River, Oct. 3d, Brig. Gen. H. R. Jackson commanding ;  
Engagement at Santa Rosa Island, Oct. 8th, Maj. Gen.  
Braxton Bragg commanding ; Engagement at Lees-  
burg, Oct. 21st and 22d, Brig. Gen. N. G. Evans  
commanding ; Bombardment of Forts Walker and  
Beauregard, Nov. 7th, Brig. Gen. Thomas F.  
Drayton commanding ; Engagement at Pike-  
ton, Ky., Col. John S. Williams commanding ;  
Battle in Alleghany Mountains, Dec. 13th,  
Col. Edward Johnson commanding ; Bat-  
tle of Chustenahlah, which took place in  
the Cherokee Nation, on the 26th of  
Dec., 1861, Col. James McIntosh  
commanding ; Battle of Belmont,  
Nov. 7th, Leonidas Polk, Major-  
General commanding.*

— . . . —  
RICHMOND:

ENQUIRER BOOK AND JOB PRESS.  
BY TYLER, WISE, ALLEGRE & SMITH.



R. B. R.  
Conf  
#46  
c.2

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BATTLE OF MANASSAS,  
JULY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 1861—J. E. JOHNSTON, GENERAL  
COMMANDING.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, }  
FAIRFAX C. H., October 14th, 1861. }

*To the Adjutant and Inspector General*  
*Confederate States Army :*

SIR : I have the honor to submit to the honorable Secretary of War a report of the operations of the troops under my command which terminated in the battle of Manassas.

I assumed command at Harper's Ferry on the 23d of May. The force at that point then, consisted of nine regiments and two battalions of infantry, four companies of artillery with sixteen pieces, without caissons, harness or horses, and about three hundred cavalry. They were of course undisciplined; several regiments without accoutrements, and with an entirely inadequate supply of ammunition.

I lost no time in making a complete reconnoissance of the place and its environs, in which the Chief Engineer, Major (now Brigadier General) Whiting ably assisted. The results confirmed my preconceived ideas.

The position is untenable by any force not strong enough to take the field against an invading army and to hold both sides of the Potomac. It is a triangle, two sides being formed by the Potomac and the Shenandoah, and the third by Furnace Ridge. The plateau thus enclosed, and the end of Furnace Ridge itself, the only defensible position, which, however, required for its adequate occupation double our numbers, was exposed to enfilade and reverse fires of artillery from heights on the Maryland side of the river. Within that line, the ground was more favorable to an attacking than to a defending force. The Potomac can be easily crossed at

many points above and below, so that it is easily turned. It is twenty miles from the great route into the Valley of Virginia from Pennsylvania and Maryland, by which General Patterson's approach was expected. Its garrison was thus out of position to defend that valley, or to prevent General McClellan's junction with General Patterson. These were the obvious and important objects to be kept in view. Besides being in position for them, it was necessary to be able, on emergency, to join General Beauregard.

The occupation of Harper's Ferry by our army perfectly suited the enemy's views. We were bound to a fixed point. His movements were unrestricted. These views were submitted to the military authorities. The continued occupation of the place was, however, deemed by them indispensable. I determined to hold it until the great objects of the Government required its abandonment.

The practicable roads from the West and Northwest, as well as from Manassas, meet the route from Pennsylvania and Maryland at Winchester. That point was, therefore, in my opinion, our best position.

The distinguished commander of the army of the Potomac was convinced, like myself, of our dependence upon each other, and promised to co-operate with me in case of need. To guard against surprise, and to impose upon the enemy, Major Whiting was directed to mount a few heavy guns upon Furnace Ridge, and otherwise strengthen the position.

I was employed, until the 13th of June, in continuing what had been begun by my predecessor, Colonel (now Major General) Jackson, the organization, instruction and equipment of the troops, and providing means of transportation and artillery horses. The river was observed from the Point of Rocks to the Western part of the county of Berkeley—the most distant portions by the indefatigable Stuart with his cavalry. General Patterson's troops were within a few hours of Williamsport, and General McClellan's in Western Virginia were supposed to be approaching to effect a junction with Patterson, whose force was reported, by well informed persons, to be eighteen thousand men.

On the morning of the 13th of June, information was received from Winchester, that Romney was occupied by two thousand Federal troops, supposed to be the van-guard of McClellan's army.

Colonel A. P. Hill, with his own (13th) and Colonel Gibbon's (10th) Virginia Regiments, was despatched by railway



to Winchester. He was directed to move thence towards Romney, to take the best position and best measures to check the advance of the enemy. He was to add to his command the 3d Tennessee Regiment, which had just arrived at Winchester.

During that day and the next, the heavy baggage and remaining public property were sent to Winchester by the railway, and the bridges on the Potomac destroyed. On the morning of the 15th, the army left Harper's Ferry for Winchester, (the force had been increased by three regiments since the 1st of June) and bivouacked four miles beyond Charlestown. On the morning of the 16th, intelligence was received that General Patterson's army had crossed the Potomac at Williamsport, also that the United States force at Romney had fallen back. A courier from Richmond brought a despatch authorizing me to evacuate Harper's Ferry at my discretion.

The army was ordered to gain the Martinsburg Turnpike, by a flank movement to Bunker's Hill, in order to place itself between Winchester and the expected advance of Patterson. On hearing of this, the enemy re-crossed the river precipitately. Resuming my first direction and plan, I proceeded to Winchester. There the army was in position to oppose either McClellan from the West, or Patterson from the Northeast, and to form a junction with General Beauregard when necessary.

Lieutenant Colonel George Stewart, with his Maryland Battalion, was sent to Harper's Ferry to bring off some public property said to have been left. As McClellan was moving Southwestward from Grafton, Colonel Hill's command was withdrawn from Romney. The defence of that region of country was entrusted to Colonel McDonald's Regiment of Cavalry. Intelligence from Maryland indicating another movement by Patterson, Colonel Jackson, with his brigade, was sent to the neighborhood of Martinsburg, to support Col. Stuart. The latter officer had been placed in observation on the line of the Potomac with his cavalry. His increasing vigilance and activity was relied on to repress small incursions of the enemy, to give intelligence of invasion by them, and to watch, harass and circumscribe their every movement. Colonel Jackson was instructed to destroy such of the rolling stock of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad as could not be brought off, and to have so much of it as could be made available to our service brought to Winchester.

Major Whiting was ordered to plan defensive works, and to have some heavy guns on navy carriages mounted. About twenty-five hundred militia, under Brigadier General Carson, were called out from Frederick and the neighboring counties, to man them.

On the 2d of July, General Patterson again crossed the Potomac. Colonel Jackson, pursuant to instructions, fell back before him. In retiring, he gave him a severe lesson, in the affair at Falling Waters. With a battalion of the 5th Virginia Regiment (Harper's), and Pendleton's Battery of Field Artillery, he engaged the enemy's advance. Skillfully taking a position where the smallness of his force was concealed, he engaged them for a considerable time, inflicted a heavy loss, and retired when about to be outflanked, scarcely losing a man, but bringing off forty-five prisoners.

Upon this intelligence the army, strengthened by the arrival of General Bee and Colonel Elzey, and the 9th Georgia Regiment, was ordered forward to the support of Jackson. It met him at Darksville, six miles from Martinsburg, where it took up a position for action, as General Patterson, it was supposed, was closely following Colonel Jackson. We waited for him in this position four days, hoping to be attacked by an adversary at least double our number, but unwilling to attack him in a town so defensible as Martinsburg, with its solid buildings and enclosures of masonry. Convinced at length that he would not approach us, I returned to Winchester, much to the disappointment of our troops, who were eager for battle with the invaders. Colonel Stuart, with his cavalry, as usual, remained near the enemy.

Before the 15th of July, the enemy's force, according to the best intelligence to be obtained, amounted to about thirty-two thousand. Ours had been increased by eight Southern regiments. On the 15th of July, Colonel Stuart reported the advance of General Patterson from Martinsburg. He halted, however, at Bunker's Hill, nine miles from Winchester, where he remained on the 16th. On the 17th, he moved his left to Smithfield. This created the impression that he intended to attack us on the south, or was merely holding us in check, while General Beauregard should be attacked at Manassas by General Scott.

About one o'clock on the morning of July 18th, I received from the Government a telegraphic dispatch, informing me that the Northern army was advancing upon Manassas, then

held by General Beauregard, and directing me, if practicable, to go to that officer's assistance, sending my sick to Culpeper Court-house.

In the exercise of the discretion conferred by the terms of the order, I at once determined to march to join General Beauregard. The best service which the army of the Shenandoah could render, was to prevent the defeat of that of the Potomac. To be able to do this, it was necessary, in the first instance, to defeat General Patterson, or to elude him. The latter course was the most speedy and certain, and was therefore adopted. Our sick, nearly seventeen hundred in number, were provided for in Winchester. For the defence of that place, the militia of Generals Carson and Meem seemed ample; for I thought it certain that General Patterson would follow my movement, as soon as he discovered it. Evading him, by the disposition made of the advance guard under Colonel Stuart, the army moved through Ashby's Gap to Piedmont, a station of the Manassas Gap Railroad. Hence, the infantry were to be transported by the railway, while the cavalry and artillery were ordered to continue their march. I reached Manassas about noon on the 20th, preceded by the 7th and 8th Georgia regiments, and by Jackson's brigade, consisting of the 2nd, 4th, 5th, 27th and 33rd Virginia regiments. I was accompanied by General Bee, with the 4th Alabama, the 2nd and two companies of the 11th Mississippi. The president of the railroad company had assured me that the remaining troops should arrive during the day.

I found General Beauregard's position too extensive, and the ground too densely wooded and intricate, to be learned in the brief time at my disposal, and therefore determined to rely upon his knowledge of it, and of the enemy's positions. This I did readily, from full confidence in his capacity.

His troops were divided into eight brigades, occupying the defensive line of Bull Run. Brigadier-General Ewell's was posted at the Union Mills Ford; Brigadier-General D. R. Jones's at McLean's Ford; Brigadier-General Longstreet's at Blackburn's Ford; Brigadier-General Bonham's at Mitchell's Ford; Colonel Cocker's at Ball's Ford, some three miles above, and Colonel Evans, with a regiment and battalion, formed the extreme left at the Stone Bridge. The brigades of Brigadier-General Holmes, and Colonel Early, were in reserve, in rear of the right. I regarded the arrival of the



remainder of the army of the Shenandoah, during the night, as certain, and Patterson's junction with the Grand Army, on the 22nd, as probable. During the evening it was determined, instead of remaining in the defensive positions then occupied, to assume the offensive, and attack the enemy before such a junction.

General Beauregard proposed a plan of battle, which I approved without hesitation. He drew up the necessary order during the night, which was approved formally by me at half-past four o'clock on the morning of the 21st. The early movements of the enemy on that morning, and the non-arrival of the expected troops, prevented its execution. General Beauregard afterwards proposed a modification of the abandoned plan—to attack with our right, while the left stood on the defensive. This, too, became impracticable, and a battle ensued, different in place and circumstance from any previous plan on our side.

Soon after sunrise, on the morning of the 21st, a light cannonade was opened upon Colonel Evans's position; a similar demonstration was made against the centre soon after, and strong forces were observed in front of it and of the right. About eight o'clock, General Beauregard and I placed ourselves on a commanding hill in rear of General Bonham's left. Near nine o'clock the signal officer, Captain Alexander, reported that a large body of troops was crossing the valley of Bull Run, some two miles above the bridge. General Bee, who had been placed near Colonel Cocke's position, Colonel Hampton, with his legion, and Colonel Jackson, from a point near General Bonham's left, were ordered to hasten to the left flank.

The signal officer soon called our attention to a heavy cloud of dust to the north-west, and about ten miles off, such as the march of an army would raise. This excited apprehensions of General Patterson's approach.

The enemy, under cover of a strong demonstration on our right, made a long detour through the woods on his right, crossed Bull Run two miles above our left, and threw himself upon the flank and rear of our position. This movement was fortunately discovered in time for us to check its progress, and ultimately to form a new line of battle nearly at right angles with the defensive line of Bull Run.

On discovering that the enemy had crossed the stream above him, Colonel Evans moved to his left with eleven companies and two field pieces, to oppose his advance, and



disposed his little force under cover of the wood, near the intersection of the Warrenton Turnpike and the Sudley Road. Here he was attacked by the enemy in immensely superior numbers, against which he maintained himself with skill and unshrinking courage. General Bee, moving towards the enemy, guided by the firing, had, with a soldier's eye, selected the position near the Henry House, and formed his troops upon it. They were the 7th and 8th Georgia, 4th Alabama, 2nd Mississippi, and two companies of the 11th Mississippi regiments, with Imboden's battery. Being compelled, however, to sustain Colonel Evans, he crossed the valley and formed on the right and somewhat in advance of his position. Here the joint force, little exceeding five regiments, with six field pieces, held the ground against about fifteen thousand United States troops for an hour, until, finding themselves outflanked by the continually arriving troops of the enemy, they fell back to General Bee's first position, upon the line of which, Jackson, just arriving, formed his brigade and Stanard's battery. Col. Hampton, who had by this time advanced with his Legion as far as the Turnpike, rendered efficient service in maintaining the orderly character of the retreat from that point; and here fell the gallant Lieutenant Colonel Johnson, his second in command.

In the meantime, I awaited with General Beauregard, near the centre, the full development of the enemy's designs. About 11 o'clock, the violence of the firing on the left indicated a battle, and the march of a large body of troops from the enemy's centre towards the conflict, was shown by clouds of dust. I was thus convinced, that his great effort was to be made with his right. I stated that conviction to General Beauregard, and the absolute necessity of immediately strengthening our left as much as possible. Orders were, accordingly, at once sent General Holmes and Colonel Early, to move with all speed to the sound of the firing, and to General Bonham to send up two of his regiments and a battery. Gen. Beauregard and I then hurried at a rapid gallop to the scene of action, about four miles off. On the way, I directed my chief of artillery, Colonel Pendleton, to follow with his own and Alburtis's batteries. We came not a moment too soon. The long contest, against five-fold odds and heavy losses, especially of field officers, had greatly discouraged the troops of General Bee and Colonel Evans. Our presence with them under fire, and some example, had

the happiest effect on the spirit of the troops. Order was soon restored, and the battle re-established, to which the firmness of Jackson's brigade greatly contributed. Then, in a brief and rapid conference, General Beauregard was assigned to the command of the left, which, as the younger officer, he claimed, while I returned to that of the whole field. The aspect of affairs was critical, but I had full confidence in the skill and indomitable courage of General Beauregard, the high soldierly qualities of Generals Bee and Jackson, and Colonel Evans, and the devoted patriotism of their troops. Orders were first dispatched to hasten the march of General Holmes's, Colonel Early's and General Bonham's regiments. General Ewell was also directed to follow with all speed. Many of the broken troops, fragments of companies, and individual stragglers, were reformed and brought into action, with the aid of my staff, and a portion of General Beauregard's. Colonel (Governor) Smith, with his battalion, and Colonel Hunton, with his regiment, were ordered up to reinforce the right. I have since learned that General Beauregard had previously ordered them into the battle. They belonged to his corps. Colonel Smith's cheerful courage had a fine influence, not only upon the spirit of his own men, but upon the stragglers from the troops engaged. The largest body of these, equal to about four companies, having no competent field officer, I placed under command of one of my staff, Colonel F. J. Thomas, who fell, while gallantly leading it against the enemy. These reinforcements were all sent to the right, to re-establish, more perfectly, that part of our line. Having attended to these pressing duties, at the immediate scene of conflict, my eye was next directed to Colonel Cocke's brigade, the nearest at hand. Hastening to his position, I desired him to lead his troops into action. He informed me, however, that a large body of the enemy's troops, beyond the stream and below the bridge, threatened us from that quarter. He was, therefore, left in his position.

My headquarters were now established near the Lewis House. From this commanding elevation, my view embraced the position of the enemy beyond the stream, and the approaches to the Stone Bridge, a point of especial importance. I could also see the advances of our troops, far down the valley, in the direction of Manassas, and observe the progress of the action and the manoeuvres of the enemy.

We had now sixteen guns, and two hundred and sixty

cavalry, and a little above nine regiments of the army of the Shenandoah, and six guns, and less than the strength of three regiments, of that of the Potomac, engaged with about thirty-five thousand United States troops, amongst whom, were full three thousand men of the old regular army. Yet, this admirable artillery, and brave infantry and cavalry, lost no foot of ground. For nearly three hours they maintained their position, repelling five successive assaults, by the heavy masses of the enemy, whose numbers enabled him continually to bring up fresh troops, as their preceding columns were driven back. Colonel Stuart contributed to one of these repulses, by a well timed and vigorous charge on the enemy's right flank, with two companies of his cavalry. The efficiency of our infantry and cavalry, might have been expected from a patriotic people, accustomed, like ours, to the management of arms and horses, but that of the artillery, was little less than wonderful. They were opposed to batteries far superior, in the number, range and equipment of their guns, with educated officers, and thoroughly instructed soldiers. We had but one educated artillerist, Colonel Pendleton—that model of a Christian soldier—yet they exhibited as much superiority to the enemy in skill as in courage. Their fire was superior, both in rapidity and precision.

About two o'clock, an officer of General Beauregard's Adjutant General's office, galloped from Manassas, to report to me that a United States army had reached the line of the Manassas Gap Railroad, was marching towards us, and then but three or four miles from our left flank.

The expected reinforcements appeared soon after. Col. Cocks was then desired to lead his brigade into action, to support the right of the troops engaged, which he did, with alacrity and effect. Within a half hour, the two regiments of General Bonham's brigade, (Cash's and Kershaw's,) came up, and were directed against the enemy's right, which he seemed to be strengthening. Fisher's North Carolina regiment was, soon after, sent in the same direction. About three o'clock, while the enemy seemed to be striving to outflank and drive back our left, and thus separate us from Manassas, General E. K. Smith arrived, with three regiments of Elzey's brigade. He was instructed to attack the right flank of the enemy, now exposed to us. Before the movement was completed, he fell, severely wounded. Colonel Elzey at once taking command, executed it with great



promptitude and vigor. General Beauregard rapidly seized the opportunity thus afforded him, and threw forward his whole line. The enemy was driven back from the long contested hill, and victory was no longer doubtful. He made yet another attempt to retrieve the day. He again extended his right, with a still wider sweep, to turn our left. Just as he re-formed, to renew the battle, Colonel Early's three regiments came upon the field. The enemy's new formation exposed his right flank more even than the previous one. Colonel Early was, therefore, ordered to throw himself directly upon it, supported by Colonel Stuart's cavalry, and Beckham's battery. He executed this attack bravely and well, while a simultaneous charge was made by General Beauregard in front. The enemy was broken by this combined attack. He lost all the artillery which he had advanced to the scene of the conflict. He had no more fresh troops to rally on, and a general rout ensued.

Instructions were instantly sent to General Bonham, to march by the quickest route to the turnpike, to intercept the fugitives; and to General Longstreet, to follow as closely as possible upon the right. Their progress was checked by the enemy's reserve, and by night, at Centreville.

Schenck's brigade made a slight demonstration towards Lewis's ford, which was quickly checked by Holmes's brigade, which had just arrived from the right. His artillery, under Captain Walker, was used with great skill.

Colonel Stuart pressed the pursuit on the enemy's principal line of retreat, the Sudley Road. Four companies of cavalry, under Colonel Radford and Lieutenant-Colonel Munford, which I had held in reserve, were ordered to cross the stream at Ball's Ford, to reach the turnpike, the line of retreat of the enemy's left. Our cavalry found the roads encumbered with dead and wounded, (many of whom seemed to have been thrown from wagons,) arms, accoutrements and clothing.

A report came to me from the right, that a strong body of United States troops was advancing upon Manassas. General Holmes, who had just reached the field, and General Ewell on his way to it, were ordered to meet this unexpected attack. They found no foe, however.

Our victory was as complete as one gained by infantry and artillery can be. An adequate force of cavalry would have made it decisive.

It is due, under Almighty God, to the skill and resolution

of General Beauregard, the admirable conduct of Generals Bee, E. K. Smith and Jackson, and of Colonels (commanding brigades) Evans, Cocke, Early and Elzey, and the courage and unyielding firmness of our patriotic volunteers. The admirable character of our troops is incontestibly proved by the result of this battle; especially when it is remembered that little more than six thousand men of the army of the Shenandoah, with sixteen guns, and less than two thousand of that of the Potomac, with six guns, for full five hours successfully resisted thirty-five thousand United States troops, with a powerful artillery, and a superior force of regular cavalry. Our forces engaged, gradually increasing during the remainder of the contest, amounted to but

men at the close of the battle. The brunt of this hard-fought engagement fell upon the troops who held their ground so long, with such heroic resolution. The unfading honor which they won, was dearly bought with the blood of many of our best and bravest. Their loss was far heavier, in proportion, than that of the troops coming later into action.

Every regiment and battery engaged performed its part well. The commanders of brigades have been already mentioned. I refer you to General Beauregard's report, for the names of the officers of the army of the Potomac, who distinguished themselves most. I cannot enumerate all of the army of the Shenandoah, who deserve distinction, and will confine myself to those of high rank. Colonels Bartow and Fisher, (killed,) Jones, (mortally wounded,) Harper, J. F. Preston, Cummings, Falkner, Gartrell and Vaughan; J. E. B. Stuart, of the cavalry, and Pendleton of the artillery, Lieutenant-Colonel Echols, Lightfoot, Lackland, G. H. Stewart and Gardner. The last-named gallant officer was severely wounded.

The loss of the army of the Potomac was, 108 killed, 510 wounded, 12 missing. That of the army of the Shenandoah was, 270 killed, 979 wounded, 18 missing.

|               |   |   |   |   |   |       |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| Total killed, | - | - | - | - | - | 378   |
| " wounded,    | - | - | - | - | - | 1,489 |
| " missing,    | - | - | - | - | - | 30    |

That of the enemy could not be ascertained. It must have been between four and five thousand. Twenty-eight pieces of artillery, about five thousand muskets, and nearly five hundred thousand cartridges; a garrison flag and ten colors were captured on the field or in the pursuit. Besides these, we captured sixty-four artillery horses, with their



harness, twenty-six wagons, and much camp equipage, clothing, and other property, abandoned in their flight.

The officers of my staff deserve high commendation for their efficient and gallant services during the day and the campaign, and I beg leave to call the attention of the Government to their merits. Major W. H. C. Whiting, Chief Engineer, was invaluable to me, for his signal ability in his profession, and for his indefatigable activity before and in the battle. Major McClean, Chief Quartermaster, and Major Kearsley, Chief Commissary, conducted their respective departments with skill and energy. Major Rhett, A. A. General, who joined me only the day before, was of great service. I left him at Manassas, and to his experience and energy I entrusted the care of ordering my troops to the field of battle as they should arrive, and forwarding ammunition for the artillery during the action. Captains C. M. Fauntleroy, C. S. Navy, T. L. Preston, A. A. General, and Lieutenant J. B. Washington, A. D. C., conveyed my orders bravely and well, on this their first field, as did several gallant gentlemen who volunteered their services—Colonel Cole of Florida, Major Deas of Alabama, Colonel Duncan of Kentucky. Lieutenant Beverly Randolph, C. S. N., aided Colonel F. J. Thomas in the command of the body of troops he led into action, and fought with gallantry. With these was my gallant friend, Captain Barlow Mason, who was mortally wounded. I have already mentioned the brave death of ordnance officer Colonel F. J. Thomas. I was much indebted, also, to Colonels J. J. Preston, Manning, Miles and Chisholm, and Captain Stevens, of the Engineer Corps, members of General Beauregard's staff, who kindly proffered their services, and rendered efficient and valuable aid, at different times during the day. Colonel G. W. Lay, of General Bonham's staff, delivered my instructions to the troops sent in pursuit and to intercept the enemy, with much intelligence and courage.

It will be remarked that the three Brigadier-Generals of the army of the Shenandoah were all wounded. I have already mentioned the wound of General Smith. General Jackson, though painfully wounded early in the day, commanded his brigade to the close of the action. General Bee, after great exposure at the commencement of the engagement, was mortally wounded, just as our reinforcements were coming up.

The apparent firmness of the United States troops at Cen-

treville, who had not been engaged, which checked our pursuit; the strong forces occupying the works near Georgetown, Arlington and Alexandria; the certainty, too, that General Patterson, if needed, would reach Washington, with his army of thirty thousand men, sooner than we could; and the condition and inadequate means of the army in ammunition, provisions and transportation, prevented any serious thoughts of advancing against the Capital. It is certain that the fresh troops within the works were, in number, quite sufficient for their defence; if not, General Patterson's army would certainly reinforce them soon enough.

This report will be presented to you by my Aid-de-Camp, Lieutenant J. B. Washington, by whom, and by General Beauregard's Aid, Lieutenant Ferguson, the captured colors are transmitted to the War Department.

Most respectfully,

Your ob't serv't,

(Signed,)

J. E. JOHNSTON,  
*General.*

(Official.)

R. H. CHILTON,  
*A. A. General.*



## REPORT OF GEN. BEAUREGARD, OF THE BATTLE OF MANASSAS.



HEADQUARTERS 1ST CORPS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, }  
MANASSAS, August 26th, 1861. }

GENERAL:

\* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

The War Department having been informed by me, by telegraph on the 17th of July, of the movement of Gen. McDowell—Gen. Johnston was immediately ordered to form a junction of his Army Corps with mine, should the movement, in his judgment, be deemed advisable. Gen. Holmes was also directed to push forward with two regiments, a battery, and one company of cavalry.

In view of these propositions, approaching reinforcements, modifying my plan of operations, so far as to determine on attacking the enemy at Centreville, as soon as I should hear of the near approach of the two reinforcing columns, I sent one of my Aids, Col. Chisholm, of South Carolina, to meet and communicate my plans to Gen. Johnston, and my wish that one portion of his forces should march by the way of Aldie, and take the enemy on his right flank and in reverse at Centreville. Difficulties, however, of an insuperable character, in connection with means of transportation, and the marching condition of his troops, made this impracticable, and it was determined our forces should be united within the lines of Bull Run, and thence advance to the attack of the enemy.

Gen. Johnston arrived here about noon on the 20th July, and being my senior in rank, he necessarily assumed command of all the forces of the Confederate States, then concentrating at this point. Made acquainted with my plan of operations and dispositions to meet the enemy, he gave them



his entire approval, and generously directed their execution under my command.

In consequence of the untoward detention, however, of some (5,000) five thousand of General Johnston's Army Corps, resulting from the inadequate and imperfect means of transportation for so many troops, at the disposition of the Manassas Gap Railroad, it became necessary, on the morning of the 21st, before daylight, to modify the plan accepted, to suit the contingency of an immediate attack on our lines, by the main force of the enemy, then plainly at hand.

The enemy's forces, reported by their best informed journals to be 55,000 strong, I had learned from reliable sources, on the night of the 20th, were being concentrated in and around Centreville, and along the Warrenton Turnpike road, to Bull Run, near which, our respective pickets were in immediate proximity. This fact, with the conviction that, after his signal discomfiture on the 18th of July, before Blackburn's Ford—the centre of my lines—he would not renew the attack in that quarter, induced me at once to look for an attempt on my left flank, resting on the Stone Bridge, which was but weakly guarded by men, as well as but slightly provided with artificial defensive appliances and artillery.

In view of these palpable military conditions, by half-past four, A. M., on the 21st July, I had prepared and dispatched orders, directing the whole of the Confederate forces within the lines of Bull Run, including the brigades and regiments of Gen. Johnston, which had arrived at that time, to be held in readiness to march at a moment's notice.

At that hour, the following was the disposition of our forces :

Ewell's Brigade, constituted as on the 18th July, remained in position at Union Mills Ford, its left extending along Bull Run in the direction of McLean's Ford, and supported by Holmes's Brigade, 2nd Tennessee and 1st Arkansas Regiments, a short distance to the rear—that is, at and near Camp Wigfall.

D. R. Jones's Brigade—from Ewell's left, in front of McLean's Ford, and along the stream to Longstreet's position. It was unchanged in organization, and was supported by Early's Brigade—also unchanged—placed behind a thicket of young pines, a short distance in the rear of McLean's Ford.

Longstreet's Brigade held its former ground at Blackburn's Ford, from Jones's left to Bonham's right, at Mitch-

ell's Ford, and was supported by Jackson's Brigade, consisting of Colonels James L. Preston's 4th, Harper's 5th, Allen's 2nd, the 27th, (Lieut. Col. Echol's,) and the 33rd, (Cumming's,) Virginia Regiments, 2,611 strong, which were posted behind the skirting of pines, to the rear of Blackburn's and Mitchell's Ford; and in rear of this support was, also, Barksdale's 13th Regiment Mississippi Volunteers, which had lately arrived from Lynchburg.

Along the edge of a pine thicket, in rear of, and equidistant from McLean's and Blackburn's Fords, ready to support either position, I had also placed all of Bee's and Bartow's Brigades that had arrived, namely: two companies of the 11th Mississippi, Lieut. Col. Liddell; the 2nd Mississippi, Col. Falkner, and the 4th Alabama, with the 7th and 8th Georgia Regiments, (Colonels Gartrell and Lieut. Col. Gardner,) in all 2,732 bayonets.

Bonham's Brigade, as before, held Mitchell's Ford, its right near Longstreet's left, its left extending in the direction of Cocke's right. It was organized as at the end of the 18th of July, with Jackson's Brigade, as before said, as a support.

Cocke's Brigade, increased by seven companies of the 8th, (Hunton's,) three companies of the 49th, (Smith's,) Virginia Regiments, two companies of cavalry, and a battery under Rogers, of four 6-pounders, occupied the line in front and rear of Bull Run, extending from the direction of Bonham's left, and guarding Island, Ball's and Lewis's Fords, to the right of Evans's Demi-Brigade near the Stone Bridge, also under General Cocke's command.

The latter held the Stone Bridge, and its left covered a farm ford about one mile above the bridge.

Stuart's cavalry, some three hundred men of the Army of the Shenandoah, guarded the level ground extending in rear from Bonham's left to Cocke's right.

Two companies of Radford's cavalry were held in reserve, a short distance in rear of Mitchell's Ford, his left extending in the direction of Stuart's right.

Colonel Pendleton's reserve battery, of eight pieces, was temporarily placed in rear of Bonham's extreme left.

Major Walton's reserve battery, of five guns, was in position on McLean's farm, in a piece of woods in rear of Bee's right.

Hampton's Legion, of six companies of infantry, six hundred strong, having arrived that morning, by the cars, from

Richmond, was subsequently, as soon as it arrived, ordered forward to a position in immediate vicinity of the Lewis House, as a support for any troops engaged in that quarter.

The effective force of all arms, of the Army of the Potomac, on that eventful morning, including the garrison of Camp Pickens, did not exceed 21,833, and 29 guns.

The Army of the Shenandoah, ready for action on the field, may be set at 6,000 men, and 20 guns.\*

The Brigade of General Holmes mustered about 1,265 bayonets, six guns, and a company of cavalry, about 90 strong.

Informed at 5.30, A. M., by Colonel Evans, that the enemy had deployed some twelve hundred men,† with several pieces of artillery, in his immediate front, I at once ordered him, as also General Cocke, if attacked, to maintain their position to the last extremity.

In my opinion, the most effective method of relieving that flank was by a rapid, determined attack with my right wing and centre on the enemy's flank and rear at Centreville, with due precautions against the advance of his reserves from the direction of Washington. By such a movement, I confidently expected to achieve a complete victory for my country by 12, M.

These new dispositions were submitted to General Johnston, who fully approved them, and the orders for their immediate execution were at once issued.

Brigadier General Ewell was directed to begin the movement, to be followed and supported successively by Generals D. R. Jones, Longstreet and Bonham, respectively, supported by their several appointed reserves.

The cavalry under Stuart and Radford were to be held in hand, subject to future orders and ready for employment, as might be required by the exigencies of the battle.

About 8.30, A. M., General Johnston and myself transferred our headquarters to a central position about half a

\* That is, when the battle began—Smith's Brigade and Fisher's North Carolina, came up later, and made total of army of Shenandoah engaged, of all arms, 8,334. Hill's Virginia Regiment, 550, also arrived, but was posted as reserve to right flank.

† These were what Colonel Evans saw of General Schenck's Brigade of General Tyler's Division, and two other heavy brigades, in all, over 9,000 men, and 13 pieces of artillery—Carlisle's and Ayres's Batteries. That is, 900 men, and two 6-pounders, confronted by 9,000 men, and thirteen pieces of artillery, mostly rifled.



mile in rear of Mitchell's Ford, whence we might watch the course of events.

Previously, as early as 5.30, the Federalists in front of Evans's position—Stone Bridge—had opened with a large 30-pounder Parrot rifle gun, and thirty minutes later, with a moderate, apparently tentative fire, from a battery of rifle pieces, directed first in front at Evans's, and then in the direction of Cocke's position, but without drawing a return fire and discovery of our positions, chiefly because in that quarter we had nothing but eight 6-pounder pieces, which could not reach the distant enemy.

As the Federalists had advanced with an extended line of skirmishers in front of Evans, that officer promptly threw forward the two flank companies of the 4th South Carolina Regiment and one company of Wheat's Louisiana Battalion, deployed as skirmishers, to cover his small front. An occasional scattering fire resulted, and thus stood the two armies in that quarter for more than an hour, while the main body of the enemy was marching his devious way through the "Big Forest" to take our forces in flank and rear.

By 8.30, A. M., Colonel Evans, having become satisfied of the counterfeit character of the movement on his front, and persuaded of an attempt to turn his left flank, decided to change his position to meet the enemy, and for this purpose immediately put in motion to his left and rear six companies of Sloan's 4th South Carolina Regiment, Wheat's Louisiana Battalion, five companies, and two 6-pounders of Latham's Battery, leaving four companies of Sloan's Regiment under cover as the sole, immediate defence of the Stone Bridge, but giving information to General Cocke of his change of position, and the reasons that impelled it.

Following a road leading by the Old Pittsylvania (Carter) Mansion, Colonel Evans formed in line of battle some four hundred yards in rear—as he advanced—of that house, his guns to the front and in position, properly supported, to its immediate right. Finding, however, that the enemy did not appear on that road, which was a branch of one leading by Sudley's Springs Ford to Brentsville and Dumfries, he turned abruptly to the left, and, marching across the fields for three-quarters of a mile—about 9.30, A. M.—took a position in line of battle; his left, Sloan's companies, resting on the main Brentsville Road in a shallow ravine, the Louisiana Battalion to the right, in advance some two hundred yards, a rectangular copse of wood separating them.



One piece of his artillery, planted on an eminence some seven hundred yards to the rear of Wheat's Battalion, and the other on a ridge near, and in rear of Sloan's position, commanding a reach of the road just in front of the line of battle. In this order he awaited the coming of the masses of the enemy, now drawing near.

In the meantime, about 7 o'clock, A. M., Jackson's Brigade, with Imboden's, and five pieces of Walton's Battery, had been sent to take up a position along Bull Run to guard the interval between Cocker's right and Bonham's left, with orders to support either, in case of need—the character and topographical features of the ground having been shown to General Jackson, by Captain D. B. Harris, of the Engineers of this Army Corps.

So much of Bee's and Bartow's Brigades, now united, as had arrived—some 2,800 muskets—had also been sent forward to the support of the position of the Stone Bridge.

The enemy, beginning his detour from the turnpike, at a point nearly half-way between Stone Bridge and Centreville, had pursued a tortuous, narrow trace of a rarely used road, through a dense wood, the greater part of his way until near the Sudley Road. A division, under Colonel Hunter, of the Federal Regular Army, of two strong brigades, was in the advance, followed immediately by another division, under Colonel Heintzelman, of three brigades, and seven companies of regular cavalry, and twenty-four pieces of artillery—eighteen of which were rifle guns. This column, as it crossed Bull Run, numbered over 16,000 men, of all arms, by their own accounts.

Burnside's Brigade—which here, as at Fairfax C. H., led the advance—at about 9.45, A. M., debouched from a wood in sight of Evans's position, some 500 yards distant from Wheat's Battalion.

He immediately threw forward his skirmishers in force, and they became engaged with Wheat's command, and the 6-pounder gun, under Lieutenant Leftwich.

The Federalists at once advanced, as they report officially, the 2d Rhode Island Regiment Volunteers, with its vaunted battery, of six 13-pounder rifle guns. Sloan's companies were then brought into action, having been pushed forward through the woods. The enemy, soon galled and staggered by the fire, and pressed by the determined valor, with which Wheat handled his battalion, until he was desperately wounded, hastened up three other regiments of the brigade and two

Dahlgreen howitzers, making in all quite 3,500 bayonets, and eight pieces of artillery, opposed to less than 800 men, and two 6-pounder guns.

Despite this odds, this intrepid command, of but eleven weak companies, maintained its front to the enemy for quite an hour, and until General Bee came to their aid with his command. The heroic Bee, with a soldier's eye and recognition of the situation, had previously disposed his command with skill—Imboden's battery having been admirably placed between the two brigades, under shelter, behind the undulations of a hill about 150 yards north of the now famous Henry House, and very near where he subsequently fell, mortally wounded, to the great misfortune of his country. but after deeds of deliberate and ever memorable courage.

Meanwhile, the enemy had pushed forward a battalion of eight companies of regular infantry, and one of their best batteries, of six pieces, (four rifled), supported by four companies of marines, to increase the desperate odds against which Evans and his men had maintained their stand, with an almost matchless tenacity.

General Bee, now finding Evans sorely pressed, under the crushing weight of the masses of the enemy, at the call of Colonel Evans, threw forward his whole force to his aid across a small stream—Young's Branch and Valley—and engaged the Federalists with impetuosity; Imboden's Battery at the time playing from his well chosen position with brilliant effect with spherical case, the enemy having first opened on him from a rifle battery, probably Griffins, with elongated cylindrical shells, which flew a few feet over the heads of our men, and exploded in the crest of the hill immediately in rear.

As Bee advanced under a severe fire, he placed the 7th and 8th Georgia Regiments, under the chivalrous Bartow, at about 11, A. M., in a wood of second-growth pines to the right and front of, and nearly perpendicular to Evans's line of battle; the 4th Alabama to the left of them, along a fence connecting the position of the Georgia Regiments with the rectangular copse in which Sloan's South Carolina companies were engaged, and into which, he also threw the 2nd Mississippi. A fierce and destructive conflict now ensued—the fire was withering on both sides, while the enemy swept our short, thin lines with their numerous artillery, which, according to their official reports, at this time consisted of at least ten rifle guns and four howitzers. For an hour, did these

stout-hearted men of the blended commands of Bee, Evans and Bartow, breast an unintermitting battle-storm, animated surely, by something more than the ordinary courage of even the bravest men under fire; it must have been, indeed, the inspiration of the cause, and consciousness of the great stake at issue, which thus nerved and animated one and all, to stand unawed and unshrinking in such extremity.

Two Federal Brigades, of Heintzleman's Division, were now brought into action, led by Ricketts's superb light Battery, of six 10-pounder rifle guns, which, posted on an eminence to the right of the Sudley Road, opened fire on Imboden's Battery—about this time increased by two rifle pieces of the Washington Artillery, under Lieut. Richardson, and already the mark of two batteries, which divided their fire with Imboden, and two guns, under Lieutenants Davidson and Leftwich, of Latham's Battery, posted as before mentioned.

At this time, confronting the enemy, we had still but Evans's eleven companies and two guns—Bee's and Bartow's four regiments, the two companies 11th Mississippi, under Lieut. Col. Liddell, and the six pieces, under Imboden and Richardson. The enemy had two divisions, of four strong brigades, including seventeen companies of regular infantry, cavalry and artillery, four companies of marines, and twenty pieces of artillery.\* Against this odds, scarcely credible, our advance position was still for a while maintained, and the enemy's ranks constantly broken and shattered under the scorching fire of our men; but fresh regiments of the Federalists came upon the field, Sherman's and Keyes's Brigades, of Tyler's Division, as is stated in their reports, numbering over 6,000 bayonets, which had found a passage across the Run, about 800 yards above the Stone Bridge, threatened our right.

Heavy losses had now been sustained on our side, both in numbers and in the personal worth of the slain. The 8th Georgia Regiment had suffered heavily, being exposed as it took and maintained its position, to a fire from the enemy, already posted within a hundred yards of their front and right, sheltered by fences and other cover. It was at this time that Lieut. Col. Gardner was severely wounded, as also several other valuable officers; the Adjutant of the Regiment,

---

\*See Official Reports of Colonels Heintzleman, Porter, &c.



Lieut. Branch, was killed, and the horse of the regretted Bartow was shot under him. The 4th Alabama also suffered severely from the deadly fire of the thousands of muskets which they so dauntlessly affronted under the immediate leadership of Bee himself. Its brave Colonel, E. J. Jones, was dangerously wounded, and many gallant officers fell, slain, or *hors de combat*.

Now, however, with the surging mass of over fourteen thousand Federal infantry, pressing on their front and under the incessant fire of at least twenty pieces of artillery, with the fresh Brigades of Sherman and Keyes's approaching—the latter already in musket range—our lines gave back, but under orders from Gen. Bee.

The enemy, maintaining their fire, pressed their swelling masses onward as our shattered battalions retired; the slaughter for the moment was deplorable, and has filled many a Southern home with life-long sorrow.

Under this inexorable stress, the retreat continued, until arrested by the energy and resolution of Gen. Bee, supported by Bartow and Evans, just in rear of the Robinson House, and Hampton's Legion which had been already advanced, and was in position near it.

Imboden's Battery, which had been handled with marked skill, but whose men were almost exhausted, and the two pieces of Walton's Battery, under Lieut. Richardson, being threatened by the enemy's infantry on the left and front, were also obliged to fall back—Imboden leaving a disabled piece on the ground retired until he met Jackson's Brigade, while Richardson joined the main body of his battery near the Lewis House.

As our infantry retired from the extreme front, the two six-pounders of Latham's Battery, before mentioned, fell back with excellent judgment to suitable positions in the rear, whence an effective fire was maintained upon the still advancing lines of the Federalists, with damaging effect, until their ammunition was nearly exhausted, when they, too, were withdrawn in the near presence of the enemy, and re-joined their captain.

From the point, previously indicated, where General Johnston and myself had established our headquarters, we heard the continuous roll of musketry, and the sustained din of the artillery, which announced the serious outburst of the battle on our left flank, and we anxiously, but confidently, awaited similar sounds of conflict from our front at



Centreville, resulting from the prescribed attack in that quarter, by our right wing.

At half past ten, A. M., however, this expectation was dissipated by a dispatch from Brig. Gen. Ewell, informing me, to my profound disappointment, that my orders for his advance had miscarried, but, that in consequence of a communication from General D. R. Jones, he had just thrown his brigade across the stream at Union Mills. But, in my judgment, it was now too late for the effective execution of the contemplated movement, which must have required quite three hours for the troops to get into position for the attack. Therefore, it became immediately necessary to depend on new combinations, and other dispositions suited to the now pressing exigency. The movement of the right and centre, already begun by Jones and Longstreet, was at once countermanded, with the sanction of General Johnston, and we arranged to meet the enemy on the field upon which he had chosen to give us battle. Under these circumstances, our reserves, not already in movement, were immediately ordered up to support our left flank, namely: Holmes's two regiments, and battery of artillery, under Captain Lindsey Walker, of six guns, and Earley's Brigade. Two regiments from Bonham's brigade, with Kemper's four six-pounders were also called for, and, with the sanction of General Johnston, Generals Ewell, Jones, (D. R.,) Longstreet and Bonham were directed to make a demonstration to their several fronts to retain and engross the enemy's reserves and any forces on their flank, and at and around Centreville. Previously, our respective Chiefs of Staff, Major Rhett and Colonel Jordan, had been left at my headquarters to hasten up, and give directions to any troops that might arrive at Manassas.

These orders having been duly dispatched by staff officers at 11.30, A. M., General Johnston and myself set out for the immediate field of action, which we reached in rear of the Robinson and Widow Henry's Houses, at about 12 meridian, and just as the commands of Bee, Bartow and Evans, had taken shelter in a wooded ravine behind the former, stoutly held at the time by Hampton with his Legion, which had made a stand there after having previously been as far forward as the Turnpike, where Lieutenant Colonel Johnston, an officer of brilliant promise, was killed, and other severe losses were sustained.

Before our arrival upon the scene, General Jackson had

moved forward with his Brigade, of five Virginia regiments, from his position in reserve, and had judiciously taken post below the brim of the plateau, nearly east of the Henry House, and to the left of the ravine and woods occupied by the mingled remnants of Bee's, Bartow's and Evans's command, with Imboden's Battery, and two of Stanard's pieces, placed so as to play upon the on-coming enemy, supported in the immediate rear by Colonel J. L. Preston's and Lieut. Colonel Echols's Regiments, on the right by Harper's, and on the left by Allen's and Cummings's Regiment.

As soon as General Johnston and myself reached the field, we were occupied with the reorganization of the heroic troops, whose previous stand, with scarce a parallel, has nothing more valiant in all the pages of history, and whose losses fitly tell why, at length, their ranks had lost their cohesion. It was now that General Johnston, impressively and gallantly charged to the front, with the colors of the Fourth Alabama Regiment by his side, all the field officers of the regiment having been previously disabled. Shortly afterwards I placed S. R. Gist, Adjutant and Inspector General of South Carolina, a volunteer Aid of General Bee, in command of this regiment, and who led it again to the front as became its previous behavior, and remained with it for the rest of the day.

As soon as we had thus rallied and disposed our forces, I urged General Johnston to leave the immediate conduct of the field to me, while he, repairing to Portici—the Lewis House—should urge reinforcements forward. At first he was unwilling, but reminded that one of us must do so, and that, properly, it was his place, he reluctantly, but fortunately, complied; fortunately, because from that position, by his energy and sagacity, his keen perception and anticipation of my needs, he so directed the reserves as to ensure the success of the day.

As General Johnston departed for Portici, Colonel Bartow reported to me with the remains of the Seventh Georgia volunteers—Gartrell's—which I ordered him to post on the left of Jackson's line, in the edge of the belt of pines bordering the south-eastern rim of the plateau, on which the battle was now to rage so long and so fiercely.

Col. Wm. Smith's Battalion of the 49th Virginia Volunteers, having also come up by my orders, I placed it on the left of Gartrell's as my extreme left at the time. Repairing then to the right, I placed Hampton's Legion, which had

suffered greatly, on that flank, somewhat to the rear of Harper's Regiment, and also the seven companies, of the 8th (Hunton's) Virginia Regiment, which, detached from Cocke's Brigade, by my orders, and those of Gen. Johnston, had opportunely reached the ground. These, with Harper's Regiment, constituted a reserve, to protect our right flank from an advance of the enemy from the quarter of the Stone Bridge, and served as a support for the line of battle, which was formed on the right by Bee's and Evans's commands, in the centre by four regiments of Jackson's Brigade, with Imboden's four six-pounders, Walton's five guns (two rifled,) two guns (one piece rifled) of Stanard's and two six-pounders, of Rogers's Batteries, the latter under Lt. Heaton; and on the left by Gartrell's reduced ranks and Col. Smith's battalion, subsequently reinforced by Falkner's Second Mississippi Regiment, and by another regiment of the Army of Shenandoah, just arrived upon the field, the Sixth (Fisher's) North Carolina. Confronting the enemy at this time, my forces numbered, at most, not more than 6,500 infantry and artillery, with but thirteen pieces of artillery, and two companies (Carter's and Hoge's) of Stuart's cavalry.

The enemy's force, now bearing hotly and confidently down on our position—regiment after regiment of the best equipped men that ever took the field—according to their own official history of the day, was formed of Colonels Hunter's and Heintzelman's Divisions, Colonels Sherman's and Keyes's Brigades, of Tyler's Division, and of the formidable batteries of Ricketts, Griffin and Arnold regulars, and Second Rhode Island, and two Dahlgreen howitzers—a force of over 20,000 infantry, seven companies of regular cavalry, and twenty-four pieces of improved artillery. At the same time, perilous, heavy reserves of infantry and artillery hung in the distance around the Stone Bridge, Mitchell's, Blackburn's and Union Mills' Fords, visibly ready to fall upon us at any moment; and I was also assured of the existence of other heavy corps, at and around Centreville and elsewhere, within convenient supporting distances.

Fully conscious of this portentous disparity of force, as I posted the lines for the encounter, I sought to infuse into the hearts of my officers and men, the confidence and determined spirit of resistance to this wicked invasion of the homes of a free people, which I felt. I informed them that reinforcements would rapidly come to their support, and that we must, at all hazards, hold our posts until reinforced. I



reminded them that we fought for our homes, our firesides, and for the independence of our country. I urged them to the resolution of victory or death on that field. These sentiments were loudly, eagerly cheered, wheresoever proclaimed, and I then felt reassured of the unconquerable spirit of that army, which would enable us to wrench victory from the host then threatening us with destruction.

Oh, my country! I would readily have sacrificed my life and those of all the brave men around me, to save your honor, and to maintain your independence from the degrading yoke which those ruthless invaders had come to impose and render perpetual, and the day's issue has assured me, that such emotions must also have animated all under my command.

In the meantime, the enemy had seized upon the plateau, on which Robinson's and the Henry Houses are situated—the position first occupied in the morning by Gen. Bee, before advancing to the support of Evans—Ricketts' Battery, of six rifle guns, the pride of the Federalists, the object of their unstinted expenditure in outfit, and the equally powerful Regular Light Battery, of Griffin, were brought forward and placed in immediate action, after having, conjointly with the batteries already mentioned, played from former positions with destructive effect upon our forward battalions.

The topographical features of the plateau, now become the stage of the contending armies, must be described in outline.

A glance at the map, will show that it is enclosed on three sides by small water courses, which empty into Bull Run within a few yards of each other, a half-a-mile to the south of the Stone Bridge. Rising to an elevation of quite one hundred feet above the level of Bull Run at the Bridge, it falls off on three sides to the level of the enclosing streams in gentle slopes, but which are furrowed by ravines of irregular direction and length, and studded with clumps and patches of young pines and oaks. The general direction of the crest of the plateau, is oblique to the course of Bull Run in that quarter, and to the Brentsville and Turnpike Roads which intersect each other at right angles. Immediately surrounding the two houses, before mentioned, are small open fields of irregular outline, not exceeding 150 acres in extent. The houses occupied at the time, the one by the Widow Henry and the other by the free negro Robinson, are small wooden buildings, the latter densely embow-



ered in trees, and environed by a double row of fences on two sides. Around the eastern and southern brow of the plateau, an almost unbroken fringe of second-growth pines, gave excellent shelter for our marksmen, who availed themselves of it with the most satisfactory skill. To the west, adjoining the fields, a broad belt of oaks extends directly across the crest on both sides of the Sudley Road, in which, during the battle, regiments of both armies met and contended for the mastery.

From the open ground of this plateau the view embraces a wide expanse of woods, and gently undulating, open country of broad grass and grain fields in all directions, including the scene of Evans and Bee's recent encounter with the enemy, some 1,200 yards to the northward.

In reply to the play of the enemy's batteries our own artillery had not been either idle or unskillful. The ground occupied by our guns, on a level with that held by the batteries of the enemy, was an open space, of limited extent, behind a low undulation, just at the eastern verge of the plateau, some 500 or 600 yards from the Henry House. Here, as before said, 13 pieces, mostly six-pounders, were maintained in action. The several batteries of Imboden, Stanard, Pendleton, (Rockbridge Artillery), and Alburtis's, of the Army of the Shenandoah, and five guns of Walton's, and Heaton's section of Rogers's Battery, of the Army of the Potomac, alternating, to some extent, with each other, and taking part as needed: all from the outset displaying that marvellous capacity of our people, as artillerists, which has made them, it would appear, at once the terror and the admiration of the enemy.

As was soon apparent, the Federalists had suffered severely from our artillery, and from the fire of our musketry on the right, and especially from the left flank, placed under cover, within whose galling range they had been advanced. And we are told in their official reports, how regiment after regiment, thrown forward to dislodge us, was broken, never to recover its entire organization on that field.

In the meantime, also, two companies of Stuart's cavalry (Carter's and Hoge's), made a dashing charge down the Brentsville and Sudley road upon the Fire Zouaves—then the enemy's right on the plateau—which added to their disorder, wrought by our musketry, on that flank. But still, the press of the enemy was heavy in that quarter of the field, as fresh troops were thrown forward there to outflank

us ; and some three guns of a battery, in an attempt to obtain a position, apparently to enfilade our batteries, were thrown so close to the 33d Regiment, Jackson's Brigade, that that regiment, springing forward, seized them, but with severe loss, and was subsequently driven back by an overpowering force of Federal musketry.

Now, full 2 o'clock, P. M., I gave the order for the right of my line, except my reserves, to advance to recover the plateau. It was done with uncommon resolution and vigor, and at the same time Jackson's Brigade pierced the enemy's centre with the determination of veterans, and the spirit of men who fight for a sacred cause ; but it suffered seriously. With equal spirit the other parts of the line made the onset, and the Federal lines were broken and swept back at all points from the open ground of the plateau. Rallying soon, however, as they were strongly reinforced by fresh regiments, the Federalists returned, and by weight of numbers, pressed our lines back, recovered their ground and guns, and renewed the offensive.

By this time, between half-past 2 and 3 o'clock, P. M., our reinforcements pushed forward, and directed by General Johnston to the required quarter, were at hand just as I had ordered forward, to a second effort, for the recovery of the disputed plateau, the whole line, including my reserve, which, at this crisis of the battle, I felt called upon to lead in person. This attack was general, and was shared in by every regiment then in the field, including the 6th, Fisher's North Carolina regiment, which had just come up and taken position on the immediate left of the 49th Virginia Regiment. The whole open ground was again swept clear of the enemy, and the plateau around the Henry and Robinson Houses remained finally in our possession, with the greater part of the Ricketts and Griffin batteries, and a flag of the 1st Michigan Regiment, captured by the 27th Virginia Regiment, (Lieut. Col. Echols,) of Jackson's Brigade. This part of the day was rich with deeds of individual coolness and dauntless conduct, as well as well-directed, embodied resolution and bravery, but fraught with the loss to the service of the country, of lives of inestimable preciousness at this juncture. The brave Bee was mortally wounded at the head of the 4th Alabama and some Mississippians, in the open field near the Henry House ; and a few yards distant, the promising life of Bartow, while leading the 7th Georgia Regiment, was quenched in blood. Col. F. J. Thomas, Act-

ing Chief of Ordnance, of Gen. Johnston's Staff, after gallant conduct and most efficient service, was also slain. Col. Fisher—6th North Carolina—likewise fell, after soldierly behavior at the head of his regiment, with ranks greatly thinned.

Withers's 18th Regiment, of Cocke's Brigade, had come up in time to follow this charge, and in conjunction with Hampton's Legion, captured several rifle pieces, which may have fallen previously in possession of some of our troops; but, if so, had been recovered by the enemy. These pieces were immediately turned, and effectively served on distant masses of the enemy, by the hands of some of our officers.

While the enemy had thus been driven back on our right, entirely across the turnpike and beyond Young's Branch, on our left, the woods yet swarmed with them, when our reinforcements opportunely arrived in quick succession, and took position in that portion of the field. Kershaw's 2nd and Cash's 8th South Carolina Regiments, which had arrived soon after Withers's, were led through the oaks just east of the Sudley-Brentsville Road, brushing some of the enemy before them, and taking an advantageous position along and west of that road, opened with much skill and effect on bodies of the enemy that had been rallied under cover of a strong Federal brigade, posted on a plateau in the southwest angle, formed by intersection of the Turnpike with the S.-B. Road. Among the troops thus engaged, were the Federal regular infantry.

At the same time, Kemper's Battery, passing northward by the S.-B. Road, took position on the open space—under orders of Colonel Kershaw—near where an enemy's battery had been captured, and was opened with effective results upon the Federal right, then the mark also of Kershaw and Cash's Regiments.

Preston's 28th Regiment, of Cocke's Brigade, had by that time, entered the same body of oaks, and encountered some Michigan troops, capturing their Brigade Commander, Col. Wilcox.

Another important accession to our forces had also occurred about the same time, 3 o'clock, P. M. Brigadier Gen. E. K. Smith, with some 1,700 infantry of Elzey's Brigade, of the Army of the Shenandoah, and Beckham's Battery, came upon the field, from Camp Pickens, Manassas, where they had arrived by railroad at noon. Directed in person by Gen. Johnston, to the left, then so much endan-



gered, on reaching a position in rear of the oak woods, south of the Henry House, and immediately east of the Sudley Road, Gen. Smith was disabled by a severe wound, and his valuable services were lost at that critical juncture. But the command devolved upon a meritorious officer of experience—Col. Elzey—who led his infantry at once somewhat further to the left, in the direction of the Chinn House, across the road, through the oaks skirting the west side of the road, and around which he sent the battery under Lieut. Beckham. This officer took up a most favorable position near that house, whence, with a clear view of the Federal right and centre, filling the open fields to the west of the Brentsville-Sudley Road, and gently sloping southward, he opened fire with his battery upon them with deadly and damaging effect.

Col. Early, who, by some mischance, did not receive orders until 2 o'clock, which had been sent him at noon, came on the ground immediately after Elzey, with Kemper's 7th Virginia, Hays's 7th Louisiana, and Barksdale's 13th Mississippi regiments. This Brigade, by the personal direction of General Johnston, was marched by the Holkham House, across the fields to the left, entirely around the woods through which Elzey had passed, and under a severe fire, into a position in line of battle near Chinn's House, outflanking the enemy's right.

At this time, about 3.30, P. M., the enemy driven back on their left and centre, and brushed from the woods bordering the Sudley Road, south and west of the Henry House, had formed a line of battle of truly formidable proportions, of crescent outline, reaching on their left, from vicinity of Pittsylvania, (the old Carter Mansion), by Matthew's and in rear of Dogan's, across the Turnpike near to Chinn's House. The woods and fields were filled with their masses of infantry and their carefully preserved cavalry. It was a truly magnificent, through redoubtable spectacle, as they threw forward in fine style, on the broad gentle slopes of the ridge occupied by their main lines, a cloud of skirmishers, preparatory for another attack.

But as Early formed his line, and Beckham's pieces played upon the right of the enemy, Elzey's Brigade, Gibbon's 10th Virginia, Lieut. Col. Stuart's 1st Maryland, and Vaughan's 3d Tennessee Regiments, and Cash's 8th and Kershaw's 2d South Carolina, Withers's 18th and Preston's 28th Virginia, advanced in an irregular line, almost simultane-



ously, with great spirit from their several positions, upon the front and flanks of the enemy, in their quarter of the field. At the same time, too, Early resolutely assailed their right flank and rear. Under this combined attack, the enemy was soon forced, first over the narrow plateau in the southern angle made by the two roads so often mentioned, into a patch of woods on its western slope, thence back over Young's Branch and the Turnpike, into the fields of the Dogan Farm, and rearward in extreme disorder, in all available directions, towards Bull Run. The rout had now become general and complete.

About the time that Elzey and Early were entering into action, a column of the enemy, Keyes's Brigade of Tyler's Division, made its way across the Turnpike between Bull Run and the Robinson House, under cover of a wood and brow of the ridges, apparently to turn my right, but was easily repulsed by a few shots from Latham's Battery, now united and placed in position by Captain D. B. Harris, of the Virginia Engineers, whose services during the day became his character as an able, cool and skillful officer; and from Alburtis's Battery, opportunely ordered, by General Jackson, to a position to the right of Latham, on a hill commanding the line of approach of the enemy, and supported by portions of regiments collected together by the Staff Officers of General Johnston and myself.

Early's Brigade, meanwhile, joined by the 19th Virginia Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Strange, of Cocke's Brigade, pursued the now panic-stricken, fugitive enemy. Stuart, with his cavalry, and Beckham, had also taken up the pursuit along the road by which the enemy had come upon the field that morning; but soon, cumbered by prisoners who thronged his way, the former was unable to attack the mass of the fast-fleeing, frantic Federalists. Withers's, R. T. Preston's, Cash's and Kershaw's Regiments, Hampton's Legion and Kemper's Battery also pursued along the Warrenton road by the Stone Bridge, the enemy having opportunely opened a way for them through the heavy abatis which my troops had made on the west side of the bridge several days before. But this pursuit was soon recalled, in consequence of a false report which unfortunately reached us, that the enemy's reserves, known to be fresh and of considerable strength, were threatening the position of Union Mills Ford.

Colonel Radford, with six companies Virginia cavalry,

was also ordered by General Johnston to cross Bull Run and attack the enemy from the direction of Lewis's House; conducted by one of my Aids, Colonel Chisholm, by the Lewis Ford, to the immediate vicinity of the Suspension Bridge, he charged a battery with great gallantry, took Colonel Corcoran, of the 69th regiment New York Volunteers, a prisoner, and captured the Federal colors of that regiment, as well as a number of the enemy. He lost, however, a promising officer of his regiment, Captain Winston Radford.

Lieutenant-Colonel Munford also led some companies of cavalry in hot pursuit, and rendered material service in the capture of prisoners and of cannon, horses, ammunition, &c., abandoned by the enemy in their flight.

Captain Lay's company of the Powhatan troops, and Utterback's Rangers, Virginia volunteers, attached to my person, did material service, under Captain Lay, in rallying troops broken for the time by the onset of the enemy's masses.

During the period of the momentous events fraught with the weal of our country, which were passing on the blood-stained plateau along the Sudley and Warrenton Roads, other portions of the line of Bull Run had not been void of action of moment and of influence upon the general result.

While Colonel Evans and his sturdy band were holding at bay the Federal advance beyond the Turnpike, the enemy made repeated demonstrations, with artillery and infantry, upon the line of Cocke's Brigade, with the serious intention of forcing the position, as General Schenck admits in his report. They were driven back with severe loss by Latham's (a section) and Rogers's four six-pounders, and were so impressed with the strength of that line as to be held in check and inactive, even after it had been stripped of all its troops but one company of the 19th Virginia Regiment, under Captain Duke, a meritorious officer. And it is worthy of notice that, in this encounter of our six-pounder guns, handled by our volunteer artillerists, they had worsted such a notorious adversary as the Ayres's—formerly Sherman's—Battery, which quit the contest under the illusion that it had weightier metal than its own to contend with.

The centre Brigades—Bonham's and Longstreet's—of the line of Bull Run, if not closely engaged, were nevertheless exposed for much of the day to an annoying, almost incessant fire of artillery of long range; but, by a steady, veteran-like maintenance of their positions, they held, virtually

paralyzed all day, two strong brigades of the enemy, with their batteries (four) of rifle guns.

As before said, two regiments of Bonham's Brigade, 2nd and 8th South Carolina volunteers, and Kemper's Battery, took a distinguished part in the battle. The remainder, 3rd Williams's, 7th Bacon's South Carolina volunteers; 11th (Kirkland's) North Carolina Regiment; six companies 8th Louisiana volunteers; Shield's Battery, and one section of Walton's Battery, under Lieutenant Garnett, whether in holding their post or taking up the pursuit, officers and men, discharged their duty with credit and promise.

Longstreet's Brigade, pursuant to orders prescribing his part of the operations of the centre and right wing, was thrown across Bull Run early in the morning, and under a severe fire of artillery, was skillfully disposed for the assault of the enemy's batteries in that quarter, but were withdrawn subsequently, in consequence of the change of plan already mentioned and explained. The troops of this brigade were, 1st, Major Skinner; 11th, Garland's; 24th, Lieutenant-Colonel Hairston; 17th, Corse, Virginia Regiments; 5th North Carolina, Lieutenant-Colonel Jones, and Whitehead's company Virginia cavalry. Throughout the day these troops evinced the most soldierly spirit.

After the rout, having been ordered by General Johnston in the direction of Centreville in pursuit, these brigades advanced near to that place, when night and darkness intervening, General Bonham thought it proper to direct his own brigade and that of General Longstreet back to Bull Run.

General D. R. Jones early in the day crossing Bull Run with his brigade, pursuant to orders, indicating his part in the projected attack by our right wing and centre on the enemy at Centreville, took up a position on the Union Mills and Centreville Road, more than a mile in advance of the Run. Ordered back, in consequence of the miscarriage of the orders to General Ewell, the retrograde movement was necessarily made under a sharp fire of artillery.

At noon this brigade, in obedience to new instructions, was again thrown across Bull Run to make demonstrations. Unsupported by other troops, the advance was gallantly made until within musket range of the enemy's force—Colonel Davies' Brigade, in position near Rocky Run, and under the concentrated fire of their artillery. In this affair the 5th, Jenkins's South Carolina, and Captain Fountaine's com-



pany of the 18th Mississippi Regiment are mentioned by General Jones as having shown conspicuous gallantry, coolness and discipline, under a combined fire of infantry and artillery. Not only did the return fire of the brigade drive to cover the enemy's infantry, but the movement unquestionably spread through the enemy's ranks a sense of insecurity and danger from an attack by that route on their rear at Centreville, which served to augment the extraordinary panic which we know disbanded the entire Federal Army for the time. This is evident from the fact that Colonel Davies, the immediate adversary's commander, in his official report was induced to magnify one small company of our cavalry, which accompanied the brigade, into a force of 2,000 men; and Colonel Miles, the commander of the Federal Reserves at Centreville, says the movement "caused painful apprehensions for the left flank" of their army.

General Ewell, occupying for the time the right of the lines of Bull Run at Union Mills Ford, after the miscarriage of my orders for his advance upon Centreville, in the afternoon, was ordered by General Johnston to bring up his brigade into battle then raging on the left flank. Promptly executed as this movement was, the brigade, after a severe march, reached the field too late to share the glories, as they had the labors, of the day. As the important position at the Union Mills had been left with but a slender guard, General Ewell was at once ordered to retrace his steps and resume his position to prevent the possibility of its seizure by any force of the enemy in that quarter.

Brigadier General Holmes—left with his brigade as a support to the same position in the original plan of battle—had also been called to the left, whither he marched with the utmost speed, but not in time to join actively in the battle.

Walker's rifle guns of the brigade, however, came up in time to be fired with precision and decided execution at the retreating enemy, and Scott's cavalry, joining in the pursuit, assisted in the capture of prisoners and war munitions.

This victory, the details of which I have thus sought to chronicle as fully as were fitting an official report, it remains to record, was dearly won by the death of many officers and men of inestimable value, belonging to all grades of our society.

In the death of General Barnard E. Bee the Confederacy has sustained an irreparable loss, for with great personal



bravery and coolness, he possessed the qualities of an accomplished soldier, and an able, reliable commander.

Colonels Bartow and Fisher, and Lieutenant Colonel Johnson of Hampton's Legion, in the fearless command of their men, gave earnest of great usefulness to the service, had they been spared to complete a career so brilliantly begun. Besides the field officers, already mentioned as having been wounded while in the gallant discharge of their duties, many others also received severe wounds after equally honorable and distinguished conduct, whether in leading their men forward, or in rallying them, when overpowered or temporarily shattered by the largely superior force, to which we were generally opposed.

The subordinate grades were likewise abundantly conspicuous for zeal and capacity for the leadership of men in arms. To mention all, who, fighting well, paid the lavish forfeit of their lives, or at least crippled, mutilated bodies on the field of Manassas, cannot well be done within the compass of this paper, but a grateful country and mourning friends will not suffer their names and services to be forgotten, and pass away unhonored.

Nor are those officers and men who were so fortunate as to escape the thick-flying, deadly missiles, of the enemy, less worthy of praise for their endurance, firmness and valor than their brothers-in-arms, whose lives were closed, or bodies maimed, on that memorable day. To mention all who exhibited ability and brilliant courage, were impossible in this report; nor do the reports of Brigade and other subordinate commanders, supply full lists of all actually deserving of distinction. I can only mention those whose conduct came immediately under my notice, or the consequence of whose actions happened to be signally important.

It is fit that I should, in this way, commend to notice the dauntless conduct and imperturbable coolness of Col. Evans; and well indeed was he supported by Col. Sloan and the officers of the Fourth South Carolina Regiment, as also, Major Wheat, than whom, no one displayed more brilliant courage until carried from the field, shot through the lungs; though happily, not mortally stricken. But in the desperately unequal contest, to which those brave gentlemen were, for a time, necessarily exposed, the behavior of officers and men generally, was worthy of the highest admiration; and assuredly, hereafter, all there present, may proudly say: We were of that band who fought the first hour of the battle of

Manassas. Equal honors and credit must also be awarded in the pages of history, to the gallant officers and men, who, under Bee and Bartow, subsequently marching to their side, saved them from destruction, and relieved them from the brunt of the enemy's attack.

The conduct of Gen. Jackson also requires mention as eminently that of an able, fearless soldier, and sagacious commander, one fit to lead his efficient brigade: his prompt, timely arrival before the plateau of the Henry House, and his judicious disposition of his troops contributed much to the success of the day. Although painfully wounded in the hand, he remained on the field to the end of the battle, rendering invaluable assistance.

Col. Wm. Smith was as efficient, as self-possessed and brave; the influence of his example and his words of encouragement was not confined to his immediate command, the good conduct of which is especially noticeable, inasmuch as it had been embodied but a day or two before the battle.

Colonels Harper, Hunton and Hampton, commanding regiments of the reserve, attracted my notice, by their soldierly ability, as with their gallant commands, they restored the fortunes of the day, at a time when the enemy, by a last desperate onset, with heavy odds, had driven our forces from the fiercely contested ground around the Henry and Robinson Houses. Veterans could not have behaved better than these well led regiments.

High praise must also be given to Colonels Cocke, Early and Elzey, Brigade Commanders; also, to Col. Kershaw, commanding, for the time, the Second and Eighth South Carolina Regiments. Under the instructions of General Johnston, these officers reached the field at an opportune, critical moment, and disposed, handled and fought their respective commands, with sagacity, decision and successful results, which have been described in detail.

Col. J. E. B. Stuart likewise deserves mention, for his enterprise and ability as a cavalry commander. Through his judicious reconnoissance of the country on our left flank, he acquired information, both of topographical features and the positions of the enemy, of the utmost importance in the subsequent and closing movements of the day on that flank, and his services in the pursuit, were highly effective.

Capt. E. P. Alexander, C. S. Engineers, gave me seasonable and material assistance early in the day, with his system of signals. Almost the first shot fired by the enemy

passed through the tent of his party at the Stone Bridge, where they subsequently firmly maintained their position in the discharge of their duty—the transmission of messages of the enemy's movements—for several hours under fire. Later, Captain Alexander acted as my Aid-de-Camp, in the transmission of orders, and in observation of the enemy.

I was most efficiently served throughout the day by my Volunteer Aids, Colonels Preston, Manning, Chesnut, Miles, Rice, Heyward and Chisholm, to whom I tender my thanks for their unflagging, intelligent and fearless discharge of the laborious, responsible duties entrusted to them. To Lieut. S. W. Ferguson, A. D. C., and Col. Heyward, who were habitually at my side, from 12 noon until the close of the battle; my special acknowledgments are due. The horse of the former was killed under him by the same shell that wounded that of the latter. Both were eminently useful to me, and were distinguished for coolness and courage, until the enemy gave way and fled in wild disorder in every direction—a scene the President of the Confederacy had the high satisfaction of witnessing, as he arrived upon the field at that exultant moment.

I also received, from the time I reached the front, such signal service from H. E. Peyton, at the time a private in the Loudoun cavalry, that I have called him to my personal staff. Similar services were also rendered me, repeatedly during the battle, by T. J. Randolph, a Volunteer Acting A. D. C. to Colonel Cocke.

Captain Clifton H. Smith, of the General Staff, was also present on the field, and rendered efficient service in the transmission of orders.

It must be permitted me here, to record my profound sense of my obligations to General Johnston, for his generous permission to carry out my plans, with such modifications as circumstances had required. From his services on the field, as we entered it together, already mentioned, and his subsequent watchful management of the reinforcements as they reached the vicinity of the field, our countrymen may draw the most auspicious auguries.

To Colonel Thomas Jordan, my efficient and zealous Assistant Adjutant-General, much credit is due for his able assistance in the organization of the forces under my command and for the intelligence and promptness with which he has discharged all the laborious and important duties of his office.



Valuable assistance was given to me by Major Cabell, chief officer of the Quartermaster's Department, in the sphere of his duties—duties environed by far more than the ordinary difficulties and embarrassments attending the operations of a long organized, regular establishment.

Colonel R. B. Lee, Chief of Subsistence Department, had but just entered upon his duties, but his experience, and long and varied services in his department, made him as efficient as possible.

Captain W. H. Fowle, whom Colonel Lee had relieved, had previously exerted himself to the utmost to carry out orders from these headquarters, to render his department equal to the demands of the service; that it was not entirely so, it is due to justice to say, was certainly not his fault.

Deprived, by the sudden severe illness, of the Medical Director, Surgeon Thomas H. Williams, his duties were discharged by Surgeon R. L. Brodie, to my entire satisfaction; and it is proper to say, that the entire medical corps of the army at present, embracing gentlemen of distinction in the profession, who had quit lucrative private practice, by their services in the field and subsequently, did high honor to their profession.

The vital duties of the Ordnance Department were effectively discharged under the administration of my Chief of Artillery and Ordnance, Colonel Samuel Jones.

At one time, when reports of evil omen and disaster reached Camp Pickens, with such circumstantiality as to give reasonable grounds of anxiety, its commander, Colonel Terrett, the commander of the entrenched batteries, Captain Sterrett, of the Confederate States Navy, and their officers, made the most efficient possible preparations for the desperate defence of that position in extremity; and in this connection, I regret my inability to mention the names of those patriotic gentlemen of Virginia, by the gratuitous labor of whose slaves the entrenched camp at Manassas had been mainly constructed, relieving the troops from that laborious service, and giving opportunity for their military instruction.

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas H. Williamson, the Engineer of these works, assisted by Captain D. B. Harris, discharged his duties with untiring energy and devotion, as well as satisfactory skill.

Captain W. H. Stevens, Engineer Confederate States Army, served with the advanced forces at Fairfax Court-



House for some time before the battle; he laid out the works there, in admirable accordance with the purposes for which they were designed, and yet so as to admit of ultimate extension and adaptation to more serious uses as means and part of a system of real defence when determined upon. He has shown himself to be an officer of energy and ability.

Major Thomas G. Rhett, after having discharged for several months the laborious duties of Adjutant-General to the commanding officer of Camp Pickens, was detached to join the Army of the Shenandoah, just on the eve of the advance of the enemy, but volunteering his services, was ordered to assist on the Staff of General Bonham, joining that officer at Centreville on the night of the 17th, before the battle of Bull Run, where he rendered valuable services, until the arrival of General Johnston, on the 20th of July, when he was called to the place of Chief of Staff of that officer.

It is also proper to acknowledge the signal services rendered by Colonel B. F. Terry and T. Lubbock, of Texas, who had attached themselves to the staff of General Longstreet. These gentlemen made daring and valuable reconnoissances of the enemy's positions, assisted by Captains Goree and Chichester; they also carried orders in the field, and on the following day, accompanying Captain Whitehead's troop to take possession of Fairfax Court-House, Colonel Terry, with his unerring rifle, severed the halliard, and thus lowered the Federal flag found still floating from the cupola of the Court-House there. He also secured a large Federal garrison flag, designed, it is said, to be unfurled over our entrenchments at Manassas.

In connection with the unfortunate casualty of the day—that is, the miscarriage of the orders sent by courier to Generals Holmes and Ewell to attack the enemy in flank and reverse at Centreville, through which the triumph of our arms was prevented from being still more decisive, I regard it in place to say, a divisional organization, with officers in command of divisions, with appropriate rank, as in European services, would greatly reduce the risk of such mishaps, and would advantageously simplify the communications of a General in command of a field with his troops.

While glorious for our people, and of crushing effect upon the *morale* of our hitherto confident and over-weening adversary, as were the events of the battle of Manassas, the field was only won by stout fighting, and, as before reported, with much loss, as is precisely exhibited in the papers here-

with, marked F, G and H, and being lists of the killed and wounded. The killed outright numbered 369—the wounded 1,483, making an aggregate of 1,852.

The actual loss of the enemy will never be known ; it may now only be conjectured. Their abandoned dead, as they were buried by our people where they fell, unfortunately, were not enumerated, but many parts of the field were thick with their corpses, as but few battle fields have ever been. The official reports of the enemy are expressly silent on this point, but still afford us data for an approximate estimate. Left almost in the dark, in respect to the losses of Hunter's and Heintzleman's Divisions—first, longest and most hotly engaged—we are informed that Sherman's Brigade—Tyler's Division—suffered, in killed, wounded and missing, 609—that is, about 18 per cent. of the brigade. A regiment of Franklin's Brigade—Gorman's—lost 21 per cent. Griffin's (battery) loss was 30 per cent., and that of Keyes's Brigade, which was so handled by its commander, as to be exposed to only occasional volleys from our troops, was at least 10 per cent. To these facts add the repeated references in the reports of the more reticent commanders, to the "murderous" fire to which they were habitually exposed—the "pistol range" volleys, and galling musketry, of which they speak, as scourging their ranks, and we are warranted in placing the entire loss of the Federalists, at over forty-five hundred in killed, wounded and prisoners. To this may be legitimately added as a casualty of the battle, the thousands of fugitives from the field, who have never rejoined their regiments, and who are as much lost to the enemy's service as if slain or disabled by wounds. These may not be included under the head of "*missing*," because, in every instance of such report, we took as many *prisoners* of those brigades or regiments as are reported "*missing*."

A list appended exhibits some 1,460 of their wounded and others, who fell into our hands, and were sent to Richmond ; some were sent to other points, so that the number of prisoners, including wounded, who did not die, may be set down as not less than 1,600. Besides these a considerable number, who could not be removed from the field, died at several farm houses and field hospitals within ten days following the battle.

To serve the future historian of this war, I will note the fact, that among the captured Federalists, are officers and

men of *forty-seven* regiments of volunteers, besides from some nine different regiments of regular troops, detachments of which were engaged. From their official reports, we learn of a regiment of volunteers engaged, six regiments of Miles's Division, and the five regiments of Runyon's Brigade, from which we have neither sound nor wounded prisoners. Making all allowances for mistakes, we are warranted in saying that the Federal Army consisted of at least fifty-five regiments of volunteers, eight companies of regular infantry, four of marines, nine of regular cavalry, and twelve batteries, forty-nine guns. These regiments, at one time, as will appear from a published list appended, marked "K," numbered in the aggregate 54,140, and average 964 each. From an order of the enemy's commander, however, dated July 13th, we learn that one hundred men from each regiment were directed to remain in charge of their respective camps—some allowance must further be made for the sick and details, which would reduce the average to eight hundred men—adding the regular cavalry, infantry and artillery present, an estimate of their force may be made.

A paper appended, marked "L," exhibits, in part, the ordnance and supplies captured—including some twenty-eight field pieces of the best character of arm, with over one hundred rounds of ammunition for each gun, thirty-seven caissons, six forges, four battery wagons, sixty-four artillery horses, completely equipped, five hundred thousand rounds of small arms ammunition, four thousand five hundred sets of accoutrements, over five thousand muskets, some nine regimental and garrison flags, with a large number of pistols, knapsacks, swords, canteens, blankets; a large store of axes and entrenching tools, wagons, ambulances, horses, camp and garrison equipage, hospital stores, and some subsistence.

Added to these results, may rightly be noticed here, that by this battle an invading army, superbly equipped, within twenty miles of their base of operations, has been converted into one virtually besieged, and exclusively occupied for months in the construction of a stupendous series of fortifications for the protection of its own Capitol.

I beg to call attention to the reports of the several subordinate commanders for reference to the signal parts played by individuals of their respective commands. Contradictory statements, found in these reports, should not excite surprise, when we remember how difficult, if not impossible, it is to



reconcile the narrations of by-standers or participants in even the most inconsiderable affair, much less the shifting, thrilling scenes of a battle field.

Accompanying are maps showing the positions of the armies on the morning of the 21st July, and of three several stages of the battle; also, of the line of Bull Run north of Blackburn's Ford. These maps, from actual surveys made by Captain D. B. Harris, assisted by Mr. John Grant, were drawn by the latter with a rare accuracy worthy of high commendation.

In conclusion, it is proper, and doubtless expected, that through this report my countrymen should be made acquainted with some of the sufficient causes that prevented the advance of our forces and prolonged, vigorous pursuit of the enemy to and beyond the Potomac. The War Department has been fully advised long since of all of those causes, some of which only are proper to be here communicated. An army, which had fought as ours on that day, against uncommon odds, under a July sun, most of the time without water and without food, except a hastily snatched, scanty meal at dawn, was not in condition for the toil of an eager, effective pursuit of an enemy immediately after the battle.

On the following day an unusually heavy and unintermitting fall of rain intervened to obstruct our advance, with reasonable prospect of fruitful results. Added to this, the want of a cavalry force, of sufficient numbers, made an efficient pursuit a military impossibility.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. T. BEAUREGARD,

*General Commanding.*

TO GENERAL S. COOPER, *Adjutant and Inspector General,*  
*Richmond, Va.*

(Official.)

R. H. CHILTON,  
*Adjutant.*





OFFICIAL REPORT OF BRIGADIER GENERAL  
JNO. B. FLOYD, OF THE BATTLE OF THE 10TH  
SEPTEMBER, 1861.

---

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF KANAWHA, }  
CAMP ON THE ROAD, Sept. 12, 1861. }

HON. L. P. WALKER,

*Secretary of War :*

SIR: Information had reached me for some number of days, that a heavy force was advancing towards my position, from the direction of Clarksburg, in the North-western part of the State. As these rumors became certainty I made an effort to strengthen myself, first, by reinforcement, and secondly, by entrenchment, sufficient to withstand the very large force of the enemy. My orders to General Wise, I send you copies of, and also, copies of his replies. I failed in procuring reinforcement, but succeeded somewhat better in the construction of a temporary breastwork. At three o'clock in the evening of the 10th of September, the enemy, under the command of General Rosencranz, (as we learned through prisoners,) of whose advance I was fully aware, at the head of ten regiments, made his appearance before our entrenchments, when the battle instantly commenced. Our lines were necessarily very extended for the purpose of protecting our position, and when manned, left not one man for reserve. The assault was made with spirit and determination with small arms, grape and round shot from howitzers and rifled cannon. There was scarcely an intermission in the conflict, until night put an end to the firing. The enemy's force is estimated certainly between eight and nine thousand men, whilst our force engaged was less than two thousand.

Upon the close of the contest for the night, I discovered that it was only a question of time when we should be compelled to yield to the superiority of numbers. I, therefore, determined at once to recross the Gauley river and take position upon the left bank, which I accomplished without the loss of a gun, or any accident whatever. Our loss, strange to say, after a continued firing upon us by cannon and small arms, for nearly four hours, was only twenty men wounded. The loss of the enemy we had no means of accurately estimating, but we are satisfied from report of prisoners and other sources of information, was very heavy. We repulsed them in five distinct and successive assaults, and at nightfall had crippled them to such an extent that they were in no condition whatever, to molest us in our passage across the river. I will only say that our men, without distinction, behaved with the greatest coolness, determination and presence of mind, and while it is impossible to give praise to one portion of the force engaged over another, it is but proper to say that the artillery behaved with the greatest bravery and efficiency; that under the command of Captain Guy, who had reached me only two days before, and were for the first time under fire, behaved themselves in a manner worthy of all praise.

I am very confident that I could have beaten the enemy and have marched directly to the Valley of Kanawha, if the reinforcements from Gen. Wise's column had come up when ordered, and the regiments from North Carolina and Georgia could have reached me before the close of the second day's conflict. I cannot express the regret which I feel at the necessity, over which I had no control, which required that I should recross the river. I am confident that if I could have commanded the services of five thousand men, instead of eighteen hundred, which I had, I could have opened the road directly into the Valley of the Kanawha.

It would seem now as if the object, so nearly accomplished, can only be obtained by an advance upon the enemy, by the left bank of the Kanawha river, with a sufficient force at any time to give him battle. This force, if possible, ought to be collected from Tennessee and Kentucky. Their close correspondence shows distinctly enough the urgent necessity of so shaping the command in the Valley of Kanawha, as to insure, in the future, that unity of action, upon which alone can rest any hope of success in military matters.

I have not thought proper to take any other notice of



these transactions, than to bring them to the notice of the President and Secretary of War of the Confederate States. The reasons which have induced me to take this course, I am sure, will not be misunderstood by either.

I apprehend the course the enemy proposes to pursue, is to carry out the plans indicated by General Rosencranz to Gen. Tyler, for the invasion of the interior of the State and the seizure of Lewisburg, set forth in an intercepted letter of the latter, a month ago. To prevent this I am in command of an actual force of four thousand two hundred men. This force will be required to oppose the advance of Gen. Cox and Gen. Rosencranz, with their forces, consisting, as they undoubtedly will, of at least 12,000 men. This disparity in numbers is too great, although I will certainly give battle to the invading army, at some such strong point in the mountain passes, as I may hope will equalize, to some extent, our numbers. This may occur within the next three days; but should it be deferred for any length of time, I hope the Department will find it proper to strengthen us with reinforcements. In the meantime, should Gen. Lee attack and repulse the enemy at Rich Mountain, I will hold myself in position to fall upon his flank, or rear, as circumstances may allow, or my force authorize.

I have the honor to be,

With the highest respect,

Your obedient servant,

(This is signed by Adjutant Peters, because an injury prevents my holding a pen.)

JNO. B. FLOYD,

*Brig. Gen. Comd'g Army of Kanawha.*

By WILLIAM E. PETERS, *A. A. Gen., Floyd's Brigade.*

---

The above is an exact copy of the original.

EDW'D S. JOYNES,

*War Dep't, Dec. 10, 1861.*



REPORT OF ENGAGEMENT AT OAK HILL, ON  
THE 10TH AUGUST, WITH UNITED STATES  
TROOPS, BEN McCULLOCH, BRIGADIER GEN-  
ERAL, COMMANDING.

---

HEADQUARTERS McCULLOCH BRIGADE, CAMP }  
WEIGHTMAN, NEAR SPRINGFIELD, Mo., Aug. 12, 1861. }

GEN. S. COOPER,

*Adjutant General, C. S. A. :*

SIR: I have the honor to make the following official report of the battle of the Oak Hills on the 10th inst. Having taken position about ten miles from Springfield, I endeavored to gain the necessary information of the strength and position of the enemy stationed in and about the town. The information was very conflicting and unsatisfactory. I, however, made up my mind to attack the enemy in their position, and issued orders, on the 9th inst., to my force to start at nine o'clock at night to attack at four different points at daylight. A few days before, General Price, in command of the Missouri force, turned over his command to me, and I assumed command of the entire force, comprising my own brigade, the brigade of Arkansas State forces, under General Pierce, and General Price's command of Missourians.

My effective force was five thousand three hundred infantry, fifteen pieces of artillery, and six thousand horsemen, armed with flint-lock muskets, rifles and shot guns. There were other horsemen with the army, who were entirely unarmed, and instead of being a help, were continually in the way. When the time arrived for the night march, it commenced to rain slightly, and fearing, from the want of cartridge boxes, that my ammunition would be ruined, I ordered the movement to be stopped, hoping to move the next morning. Many of my men had but twenty rounds of ammunition, and there was no more to be had. While still hesita-

ting in the morning, the enemy were reported advancing, and I made arrangements to meet him. The attack was made simultaneous at half-past five, A. M., on our right and left flanks, and the enemy had gained the positions they desired. General Lyon attacked us on our left, and General Seigel on our right and rear. From these points batteries opened upon us. My command was soon ready. The Missourians, under Generals Slack, Clark, McBride, Parsons and Raines, were nearest the position taken by General Lyon with his main force. They were instantly turned to the left and opened the battle with an incessant fire of small arms. Woodruff opposed his battery to that of the enemy, under Captain Totten, and a constant cannonading was kept up between these batteries during the battle. Hebert's Regiment of Louisiana Volunteers and McIntosh's Regiment of Arkansas Mounted Riflemen, were ordered to the front, and after passing the battery, turned to the left and soon engaged the enemy, with the regiments deployed. Colonel McIntosh dismounted his regiment, and the two marched up abreast to a fence around a large cornfield, when they met the left of the enemy already posted. A terrible conflict of small arms took place here. The opposing force was a body of regular United States Infantry, commanded by Captains Plummer and Gilbert.

Notwithstanding the galling fire poured upon these two regiments, they leaped over the fence, and gallantly led by their Colonels, drove the enemy before them back upon the main body. During this time the Missourians, under General Price, were nobly attempting to sustain themselves in the center, and were hotly engaged on the sides of the height upon which the enemy were posted. Far on the right Seigel had opened his battery upon Churchill's and Greer's Regiments, and had gradually made his way to the Springfield Road, upon each side of which the army was encamped, and in a prominent position, had established his battery. I at once took two companies of the Louisiana Regiment, which were nearest me, and marched them rapidly from the front and right to the rear, with orders to Colonel McIntosh to bring up the rest.

When we arrived near the enemy's battery, we found that Reid's Battery had opened upon it, and it was already in confusion. Advantage was taken of it, and soon the Louisianans were gallantly charging among the guns and swept the cannoniers away. Five guns were here taken, and



Seigel's command, completely routed, were in rapid retreat with a single gun, followed by some companies of the Texas Regiment and a portion of Colonel Major's Missouri Regiment of Cavalry. In the pursuit many of the enemy were killed and taken prisoners, and their last gun captured.

Having cleared our right and rear, it was necessary to turn all our attention to the center, under General Lyon, who was pressing upon the Missourians, having driven them back. To this point McIntosh's Regiment, under Lieutenant Colonel Embry, and Churchill's Regiment, on foot, Gratiot's Regiment and McRae's Battalion were sent to their aid. A terrible fire of musketry was now kept up along the whole side and top of the hill upon which the enemy were posted; masses of infantry fell back, and again rushed forward. The summit of the hill was covered with the dead and wounded. Both sides were fighting with desperation for the day. Carroll's and Greer's Regiments, led gallantly by Capt. Bradfute, charged the battery, (Totten's) but the whole strength of the enemy were immediately in rear, and a deadly fire was opened upon them.

At this critical moment, when the fortunes of the day seemed to be at the turning point, two regiments of General Pierce's Brigade, were ordered to march from their position (as reserves) to support the center.

The order was obeyed with alacrity, and General Pierce gallantly marched with his brigade to the rescue. Reid's Battery was also ordered to move forward, and the Louisiana Regiment was again called into action on the left of it. The battle then became general, and probably no two opposing forces ever fought with greater desperation; inch by inch the enemy gave way and were driven from their position. Totten's Battery fell back—Missourians, Arkansians, Louisianans and Texans pushed forward—the incessant roll of musketry was deafening, and the balls fell thick as hail stones—but still our gallant Southerners pushed onward, and, with one wild yell, broke upon the enemy, pushing them back and strewing the ground with their dead. Nothing could withstand the impetuosity of our final charge. The enemy fled and could not again be rallied, and they were seen at 12 M., fast retreating among the hills in the distance. Thus ended the battle. It lasted six hours and a half. The force of the enemy, between nine and ten thousand, was composed of well disciplined troops, well armed, and a large part of them belonging to the old army of the United States.

With every advantage on their side, they have met with a signal repulse. The loss of the enemy is eight hundred (800) killed, one thousand (1,000) wounded, and three hundred (300) prisoners. We captured six (6) pieces of artillery, several hundred stand of small arms, and several of their standards.

Major General Lyon, chief in command, was killed, and many of their officers, high in rank, wounded.

Our loss was also severe, and we mourn the death of many a gallant officer and soldier. Our killed amounts to two hundred and sixty-five, (265,) eight hundred (800) wounded, and thirty (30) missing.

Colonel Weightman fell at the head of his brigade of Missourians, while gallantly charging upon the enemy. His place will not easily be filled. Generals Slack and Clark, of Missouri, were severely wounded—General Price, slightly. Captain Hinson, of the Louisiana Regiment, Captain McAlexander, of Churchill's Regiment, Captains Bell and Brown of Pierce's Brigade; Lieutenants Walton and Weaver, all fell nobly and gallantly doing their duty. Colonel McIntosh was slightly wounded by a grape-shot while charging with the Louisiana Regiment. Lieutenant Colonel Neal, Major H. Ward, Captains King, Pearson, Gibbs, Ramsaur, Porter; Lieutenants Dawson, Chambers, Johnson, King, Adams, Hardista, McIver and Saddler, were wounded while at the head of their companies. Where all were doing their duty so gallantly, it is almost unfair to discriminate. I must, however, bring to your notice the gallant conduct of the Missouri Generals, McBride, Parsons, Clark, Slack, and their officers. To General Price I am under many obligations for assistance on the battle field. He was at the head of his force leading them on; and sustaining them by his gallant bearing. General Pierce, with his Arkansas Brigade, (Gratiot's, Walker's and Daugherty's Regiment of Infantry,) came gallantly to the rescue when sent for. Leading his men into the thickest of the fight, he contributed much to the success of the day. The commanders of regiments of my own Brigade, Colonels Churchill, Greer, Embry, McIntosh, Hebert and McRae, led their different regiments into action with the greatest coolness and bravery, always in front of their men, cheering them on.

Woodruff, Bledsoe and Reid, managed their batteries with great ability, and did much execution.

For those other officers and men, who were particularly

conspicuous, I will refer the Department to the reports of the different commanders.

To my personal staff I am much indebted for the coolness and rapidity with which they carried orders about the field, and would call your attention to my volunteer aids, Capt. Bradfute, Messrs. Armstrong, Ben. Johnson, (who had his horse killed under him,) Hamilton, Pike and Major King. To Major Montgomery, Quartermaster, I am also indebted for much service. He cheerfully volunteered his services as an aid during the battle, and was of much use to me.

To Colonel McIntosh, at one time at the head of his regiment, and at other times in his capacity of Assistant Adjutant General, I cannot bestow too much praise. Wherever the balls flew thickest, he was gallantly leading different regiments into action, and his presence gave confidence everywhere.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

BEN McCULLOCH,

*Brigadier-General, commanding.*

(Official.)

R. H. CHILTON,

*A. A. General.*

CONSOLIDATED REPORT of the Killed, Wounded and Missing, in the Arkansas State Forces, after the action of August 10th, 1861 :

| Command.                                                                 | Killed. | Wounded. | Missing. | Remarks                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------|----------|----------------------------------|
| Second Regiment Cavalry, Col. Carroll .....                              | 5       | 18       | 2        | Not engaged.                     |
| Third Regiment Infantry, Woodruff's Battery attached, Col. Gratiot ..... | 25      | 84       | 1        |                                  |
| Fourth Regiment Infantry, Col. Walker .....                              |         |          |          |                                  |
| Fifth Regiment Infantry, Colonel Daugherty .....                         | 3       | 11       |          |                                  |
| General Staff .....                                                      |         |          | 1        |                                  |
|                                                                          |         |          |          | Capt. Jefferson, taken prisoner. |
| Total .....                                                              | 33      | 113      | 4        |                                  |

(Signed.)

A. H. CLINE,  
Major and A. D. C.

(Official.)

R. H. CHILTON,  
A. A. General.



REPORT OF THE ENGAGEMENT AT LEWINSVILLE,  
VIRGINIA, J. E. B. STUART, COL. COMMANDING.

---

HEADQUARTERS MUNSON'S HILL, }  
September 11th, 1861. }

GENERAL:

I started about 12 o'clock, with the 13th Virginia Volunteers, commanded by Maj. Terrill, 305 men, one section of Rosser's Battery, Washington Artillery, and a detachment of First Cavalry, under Captain Patrick, for Lewinsville, where I learned from my cavalry pickets, the enemy were posted with some force. My intention was to surprise them, and I succeeded entirely. Approaching Lewinsville by the enemy's left and rear, taking care to keep my small force an entire secret from their observation, I, at the same time, *carefully provided* against the disaster to myself which I was striving to inflict upon the enemy, and felt sure, that if necessary, I could fall back successfully before any force the enemy might have, for the country was favorable to retreat and ambuscade. At a point, nicely screened by the woods from Lewinsville, and a few hundred yards from the place, I sent forward, under Maj. Terrill, a portion of his command, stealthily to reach the woods at a turn of the road and reconnoitre beyond; this was admirably done, and the Major soon reported to me that the enemy had a piece of artillery in position, in the road just at Lewinsville, commanding our road. I directed him immediately to post his riflemen so as to render it impossible for the cannoniers to serve the piece, and if possible, capture it. During subsequent operations, the cannoniers tried ineffectually to serve the piece, and finally, after one was shot through the head, the piece was

taken off. While this was going on, a few shots from Rosser's section, at a cluster of the enemy, a quarter of a mile off, put the entire force of the enemy in full retreat, exposing their entire column to flank fire from our pieces. Some wagons and a large body of cavalry first passed in hasty flight, the rifle piece and howitzer firing as they passed; then came flying a battery, eight pieces of artillery, (Griffin's,) which soon took position about six hundred yards to our front and right, and rained shot and shell upon us during the entire engagement, but with harmless effect, although striking very near. Then passed three regiments of infantry, at double quick, receiving in succession as they passed, Rosser's unerring salutation—his shells bursting directly over their heads and creating the greatest havoc and confusion in their ranks. The last infantry regiment was followed by a column of cavalry, which at one time, rode over the rear of the infantry in great confusion. The Field, General and Staff-Officers were seen exerting every effort to restore order in their broken ranks, and my cavalry videttes, observing their flight, reported that they finally rallied a mile and-a-half below, and took position there, firing round after round of artillery from that position up the road, where they supposed our columns would be pursuing them. Capt. Rosser having no enemy left to contend with, at his own request, was permitted to view the ground of the enemy's flight, and found the road plowed up by his solid shot, and strewn with fragments of shells—two men left dead in the road, one mortally wounded, and one not hurt, taken prisoner. The prisoner said the havoc in their ranks was fearful, justifying what I saw myself of the confusion.

Major Terrill's sharp-shooters were by no means idle, firing wherever a straggling Yankee showed his head, and capturing a Lieutenant, (captured by Maj. T., himself,) one Sergeant and one private, all belonging to the Nineteenth Indiana, (Col. Merideth's).

The prisoners reported to me that General McClellan himself was present, and the enemy gave it out publicly that the occupancy of Lewinsville was to be permanent. Alas for human expectations!

The officers and men behaved in a manner worthy of the General's highest commendations, and the firing done by the section, under direction of Capt. Rosser and Lieut. Slocumb, all the time under fire from the enemy's battery, certainly,

for accuracy and effect, challenges comparison with any ever made.

Valuable assistance was rendered me by Chaplain Ball, as usual, and Messrs. Hairston and Burks, citizens attached to my staff, were conspicuous in daring. Corp'l Hagan, and Bugler Freed, are entitled to special mention for good conduct and valuable service.

Our loss was not a scratch to man or horse. We have no means of knowing the enemy's, except it must have been heavy from the effects of the shots. We found in all four dead and mortally wounded, and captured four. Of course they carried off all they could.

Your attention is especially called to the enclosed, which was delivered to me at Lewinsville, and to my endorsement. I send a sketch, also. I returned here with my command after re-establishing my line of pickets there.

Please forward this report to General Johnston, Gen. J. Longstreet.

Most respectfully,

Your obed't serv't.

(Signed.)

J. E. B. STUART.

*Colonel Commanding.*

(Official.)

R. H. CHILTON, *A. A. General.*





OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE ENGAGEMENT ON  
GREENBRIER RIVER, OCTOBER 3, 1861, H. R.  
JACKSON, BRIGADIER GENERAL COMMAND-  
ING.

---

CAMP BARTOW, GREENBRIER RIVER, }  
October 7th, 1861. }

COL. C. L. STEVENSON,

*Assistant Adjutant General, N. W. A. :*

COLONEL: In my note of the 3d inst., I gave you a brief account of the attack made that day upon our position by the enemy.

Advancing along the turnpike with a heavy column, composed of infantry, artillery and cavalry numbering, at a safe estimate, from six to seven thousand men, he drove in our advanced pickets at an early hour in the morning. About seven o'clock he encountered the main body of the advanced guard, reinforced to about one hundred strong, and posted on the right side of the turnpike, one mile from our lines, by Colonel Edward Johnson, of the 12th Georgia Regiment, who took command in person.

You will find this position designated upon the accompanying map by the capital letter "E." It is but justice to this superior officer, and to the gallant band whose movements he directed, to say that it would not have been possible for so small a force to have been more skillfully handled, or to have exhibited more obstinate courage, in the face of numbers so overwhelming. They held the column of the enemy in check for nearly an hour, pouring into the head of it a galling fire, not withdrawing until six pieces of artillery had opened briskly upon them, and full battalions of infantry were outflanking them on the right, and then, retiring in such order, and taking such advantage of the ground, as to reach our camp with but a trifling loss. To this brilliant

skirmish, in which Colonel Johnson had his horse killed under him, is doubtless to be ascribed, in a measure, the exhilarated spirit manifested by our troops during the remainder of the day. Before taking leave of it, and referring to former dispatches, I would beg once again to direct to Colonel Edward Johnson the special attention of the commanding general, not simply for this peculiarly brilliant service, but for his gallant and efficient conduct throughout the entire engagement.

So soon as it had become apparent that the enemy contemplated a systematic attack upon our camp, I disposed of my entire force to meet it. To convey a correct idea, not simply of that disposition, but of the subsequent action, I must pray reference to the accompanying map, for which I am indebted to Lieutenant Colonel Barton, of the 3d Arkansas Regiment.

As I have already reported to you, our position is not, by nature, a commanding one. The causes of its weakness are the necessity of defending extended lines on our front (not less than a mile) and on our flanks, and the fact that there are points in our rear which, in the possession of an enemy, might give us great trouble. The works, essential to our safety, were in progress of construction at the time of the attack, but were only partially completed, nothing whatever having been done to strengthen our right flank or our rear. I am happy to say that during the last three days, through the indefatigable efforts of Lieutenant Colonel Barton, in immediate charge of the works, backed by the cheerful labor of the men, we are already in condition to defy an approach from any quarter. Not doubting that the attack upon us had been, to some extent, invited by our commencing to fortify ourselves against it, and fearing that the enemy might have been fully advised of our weak points, until he had actually begun his retreat, my mind could not dispossess itself of the idea that he had sent another column over the mountains to turn our right flank. To prepare for this danger, I held the 1st Georgia Regiment, so far as that could be done, in reserve, for what I apprehended would be a desperate struggle. I also sent expresss to Colonel Baldwin, whom I had previously ordered to the top of the Alleghany Ridge, directing him to move the 52d Virginia Regiment as rapidly down as possible, and to fall upon the rear of the enemy, should he undertake to fall upon ours. That gallant regiment responded (as I have learned) most heartily

to the call, and when halted upon the road, by the tidings that the day had already been won, despite of its not-to-be-doubted patriotism, could not entirely conceal its chagrin.

The two brigades in this camp, weakened by the absence of the several corps on detached service, (the 5th having been reduced from this cause and from sickness to scarce one-third of its legitimate number) I posted in the following order: The 1st Georgia Regiment, upon our extreme right, under command of Major Thompson, Colonel Ramsey (the field officer of the day) having been cut off from us by the enemy while discharging his duty upon the road; next to it was placed the 12th Georgia Regiment—both of these regiments designed for the immediate command of Colonel Johnson. At an early moment I threw out what few mounted men were available under Captain Sterrett, of the Churchville Cavalry, to different points along the valley upon our right, for the purpose of bringing us timely notice of an approach by the enemy, and I also strengthened considerably the picket guard advanced in that direction. The center I entrusted to the 5th Brigade, under command of Colonel Taliaferro, composed of the 44th Virginia Regiment, Colonel Scott; the 23d Virginia Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Taliaferro, and Major Rogers's Battalion, commanded, in his absence from sickness, by senior Captain John C. Higginbotham. This brigade was reduced in the course of the action by the detachment of one hundred men, under Major Jones, of the 44th, to reinforce our left wing. This detachment marched in gallant style, under the enemy's fire, to the position assigned it in line. The troops on this wing, which, from the character of the ground, were widely dispersed, fell under the general command of Colonel Rust, of the 3d Arkansas Regiment, and consisted of his own command, the 31st Virginia Volunteers, Lieutenant Colonel Jackson, and the Battalion of Lieutenant Colonel Hansborough, commanded, in his absence on account of sickness, by senior Captain J. A. Robertson. Upon this flank, also, two field pieces had already been placed in battery enfilading the Huntersville Road, which runs at right angles, if indeed those terms can be applied to serpentine mountain roads, from the turnpike. These guns were under the immediate charge of Captain P. B. Anderson, and the zeal, skill and determination of that officer, leave no doubt that they would have done great execution, had the enemy ventured to call them into action.



Captain Shumaker's Battery, consisting of four pieces, (six-pounders,) one of them rifled, and one six-pounder, under Captain Rice, were held in readiness for the front and right flank. The places occupied by these various corps, you will find specified upon the map.

Our forces were all in position, when, at about 8 o'clock, the enemy opened a heavy fire from six (6) pieces of different calibre, placed in a field upon the right-hand side (to them) of the turnpike road, and bearing upon our front and center. This number was subsequently increased by two other pieces, placed on the opposite side of the turnpike, one near it and the other upon the rise of the hill. This fire (of round shot, spherical case, shell, and, occasionally, upon our left wing, of canister,) was continued with extraordinary rapidity, and without intermission, for upwards of four hours, the eight guns constituting the well-known field batteries of Howe and of Loomis. The hill, occupied by Colonel Taliaferro's brigade, invitingly exposed to all of these batteries, received the greater share of their attention, and, but for the protection afforded by the ditch and embankment running along its brow, and constructed under the immediate supervision of Colonel Taliaferro himself, we should doubtless have had inflicted upon us a very severe loss indeed.

This fire was returned with great energy, and, as the result has proved, with signal effect, by the guns of Captain Shumaker and Captain Rice, and by one piece detached from Captain Anderson's battery and placed upon the hill occupied by Lieutenant Colonel Jackson. Lieutenant Massie, its proper chief, being quite indisposed, although he maintained his position near his piece, it was placed under the command of Captain Deshler, Aid-de-Camp to Colonel Johnson. From the fact that the rifled gun of Captain Shumaker soon became useless to us, (for the cause of this great misfortune see his own report, addressed to myself,) at no time could we bring more than five pieces into action, to return the fire of the enemy's eight. Yet that fire *was* returned, and that, with so much spirit and energy, as to render this "artillery duel" peculiarly interesting, by the character of the field and its mountain surroundings, ever memorable by those who beheld it. That the casualties among our cannoniers should have been so few, is a subject of sincere congratulation, and is very much ascribable to the sound judgment of Captain Shumaker, who repeatedly



changed the position of his guns, when those of the enemy had obtained his range. For a minuter description of the action, in this, its most striking phase, I take great pleasure in referring to the report of that consummately cool and skillful officer. From it you will learn why it was that our pieces, at the close of the four hours' interchange of fire, were temporarily withdrawn, inducing our friends upon our extreme left, and evidently the enemy, to suppose that they had been silenced.

At about half-past nine a strong column of infantry was seen to move towards our left flank. Having crossed the so-called river, (in fact a shallow stream, of about twenty yards in width,) near the point designated on the map by the capital letter "A," it undertook to turn our position in that direction. Soon, however, it encountered a portion of the 3rd Arkansas Regiment, which drove it precipitately back with a destructive fire. The enemy subsequently turned two of his pieces upon this position of our left wing, pouring out canister and shell in large volumes, but fortunately, on account of the protection afforded by the works, with but little execution.

Simultaneously with this movement towards our left, another column of infantry ascended the wooded hill before our right wing, at the point designated upon the map by the capital letter "B." Having become, at its head, involved in a slight skirmish with one of our picket guards, it was immediately and strongly reinforced. Subsequently to the repulse of the column from our left flank, it proceeded in the same general direction, ascending the hill at the point designated by the letter "C," and swelling the force, which now began to threaten seriously our front and right, to some four thousand men. They moved along the side of the hill, opening upon our lines a desultory fire of rifle musketry, which was continued until the close of the action. So soon as the designs of this column were fully developed, I ordered the 12th Georgia Regiment to take position near the stream, where a small detachment of it, under Lieutenant Dawson, had already been posted, with instructions to engage the enemy whenever he should attempt to cross it. From the fact that this movement was made in full face of largely superior numbers, and with a superior weapon, and protected by cover of the forest, it was made with an alacrity and a regularity which deserve high commendation, as does also the cool determination with which this command protecting-

itself, as best it might, against the enemy's fire, received it, but returned scarce a shot. Not long thereafter, I ordered Captain Shumaker to open upon the same column, directing his fire to where he supposed the head of it to be. This he promptly did with two of his pieces, and so effectively, that in a short time the unmistakable evidences of their rout became apparent. Distinctly could their officers be heard, with words of mingled command, remonstrance and entreaty, attempting to rally their battalions into line, and to bring them to the charge, but they could not be induced to reform their broken ranks, nor to emerge from the cover of the woods, in the direction of our fire. Rapidly and in disorder they returned into the turnpike, and soon thereafter the entire force of the enemy—artillery, infantry and cavalry—retreated in confusion along the road and adjacent fields, leaving behind them, at different points, numbers of their killed, guns, knapsacks, canteens, etc., etc. Among other trophies taken, were a stand of United States colors, which are held subject to the order of the commanding general.

This engagement lasted from seven in the morning to half-past two o'clock in the afternoon, at which time the enemy, who had come with artillery to bombard and demoralize us; with infantry to storm our camp; with cavalry to rout and destroy us, and *with four days cooked rations* in his haversack, to prosecute a rapid march either towards Staunton or towards Huntersville, was in precipitate retreat back to his Cheat Mountain fastness. And it is certainly a matter not unworthy of mention, that while his first insolent advances were received with defiant cheers, running from one end to the other of our line, he was permitted to take his departure under the simple reports of our pieces, firing upon him so long as he continued within their range. The relative weakness of our force, and the entire absence of cavalry, prevented our pursuing him, and thereby realizing the legitimate fruits of our triumph. His loss in killed and wounded is estimated at from two hundred and fifty to three hundred—among them an officer of superior rank. Our own, I am happy to say, was very inconsiderable, not exceeding fifty in all. This most gratifying result is to be attributed, in a great degree, to the remarkable coolness of regimental and company officers, who never seemed for a moment to lose their presence of mind; never allowed their men unnecessarily to expose themselves, and profited by every advantage of ground and position, to shield them from danger.

In conclusion, I take great pride in saying that the bearing of all the troops, both officers and men, with but few exceptions, was highly creditable to themselves and to the army. Among those who enjoyed the opportunity, coveted by all, of attracting special notice, in addition to the name of Col. Johnson, I would mention those of Capt. Shumaker, who was wounded at his battery, and to whom I have already had repeated occasion to refer; of Capt. Wm. H. Rice, of whom Capt. Shumaker speaks in the following emphatic language: "He had been working his piece beautifully for two hours, and too much praise cannot be given him for the deliberate manner with which he loaded and fired his piece; loading and firing by detail for an hour, in the midst of a storm of shot and shell from the enemy," until he was stricken to the earth severely wounded; of Capt. Deshler, who directed a rapid fire with marked effect, and of Sergeant Graves, who fell mortally wounded in the cool and gallant discharge of his duty. Peculiarly distinguished among the advanced guard, where all were distinguished, must be recorded the names of Lieut. Gibson, of the Third Arkansas Regiment—the officer in immediate command; of private Slayton, of the 31st Virginia Regiment, who was severely wounded, and of private J. W. Brown, of Company F, First Georgia Regiment, who, upon hearing the order to fall back, exclaimed: "*I will give them one more shot before I leave,*" and while ramming down his 29th cartridge, fell dead at his post. Nor can I omit mention, in this connection, of Lieut. Col. Barton, who, in the absence of Engineer Staff Officers, designed, and was in active prosecution of the works, to which we are so much indebted, for the defence of our position, and who has shown himself, at all times, prompt to render cheerful and efficient service.

It is hardly necessary to add that Colonel Taliaferro, whose marked coolness and energy could not fail to inspire his men, and Col. Rust, in command of the left wing, from which the enemy was first repelled, discharged their responsible duty successfully and well.

Finally, my own thanks are especially due to my Aids, Major F. S. Bloom, and Lieut. W. D. Humphries, C. S. A., for the gallant and efficient manner in which they responded to the peculiar and exposing calls made upon them. It is



but justice to add that Cadet Henry Jackson, C. S. A., drew notice to himself by his gallantry under fire.

I have the honor to enclose herewith a list of casualties.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your ob't serv't,

(Signed.)

HENRY R. JACKSON,

*Brig. Gen. Com'g.*

(Official.)

R. H. CHILTON, *A. A. Gen'l.*



REPORT OF THE ENGAGEMENT AT SANTA ROSA  
ISLAND, ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 8TH, 1861,  
BRAXTON BRAGG, MAJOR GENERAL COM-  
MANDING.

---

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF PENSACOLA, }  
NEAR PENSACOLA, FLA., Oct. 29th, 1861. }

SIR: Owing to the disability of Brigadier General Anderson from his wound, I have been unable to procure earlier a detailed report of the affair with the enemy, on Santa Rosa Island, on the night of the 8th and 9th instants, with a tabular statement of killed, wounded and prisoners; it is herewith enclosed. The circumstances attending this little expedition rendered it a most daring and successful feat of arms. Landing from steamers and flats on the enemy's shore, within sight of his fleet, marching some three or four miles, in the darkness of night, over an unknown and almost impassable ground, under his guns, killing his pickets, storming his entrenched camp of six or seven hundred men, driving the enemy off in utter confusion and dismay, and burning every vestige of clothing, equipage and provision, leaving them individually in a state of destitution, and this under the close range of the guns of his stronghold, Fort Pickens, without his discovering our object, or firing a gun, is an achievement worthy of the gallant men who executed it. Our loss was almost entirely the result of exhaustion from the fatigue of the march, and from the over zeal of the hospital guard, left to protect the enemy's sick, when they were captured. From the nature of the service, and the necessity of rapidly retiring with our small force, before the enemy could rally from his surprise, some of our wounded were left on the field, and, I regret to say, indications show they were brutally murdered by the enemy. Of thirteen dead bodies recovered, eleven were shot through the

head, having, at the same time, disabling wounds on the body; this fact admits of but one inference.

Brigadier General Anderson commends, in very just terms, the gallantry of his little band, who have fully justified the high estimate I had formed of this excellent little army. They have shown, it is only necessary to order, and they will promptly execute, however desperate the undertaking.

The General modestly omits to mention that, at the close of the affair, he received a painful wound in the left arm, from a musket ball, which will disable him for several weeks.

In commending the troops generally for their good conduct, I cannot omit to mention the separate commanders of the three small columns—Colonel J. Patton Anderson, 1st Florida Volunteers; Colonel J. K. Jackson, 5th Georgia Volunteers, and Colonel J. R. Chalmers, 9th Mississippi Volunteers.

The darkness and nature of the service rendered it necessary for each one to act an independent part. They proved themselves not only gallant leaders, but competent commanders.

To Captain W. R. Boggs, Engineer C. S. A., and 1st Lieutenant J. E. Slaughter, C. S. Artillery, Acting Inspector General, I am indebted for the perfect knowledge of the enemy's pickets and positions, obtained by close reconnoissance on which the expedition was based, and for the secret and complete organization which incurred its success.

I am, sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed.)

BRAXTON BRAGG,

*Major General Commanding.*

ADJUTANT GENERAL C. S. A., Richmond, Va.

(Official.)

R. H. CHILTON,

*Assistant Adjutant General.*

## REPORT OF BRIGADIER GENERAL R. H. ANDERSON.

---

PENSACOLA, Florida, Oct. 23, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the affair on Santa Rosa Island, on the night of the 8th, and morning of the 9th of October:

The detachment which had been ordered to assemble at the Navy Yard, arrived at the hour appointed, and were embarked in good order on the steamer "Time."

Whilst proceeding from the Navy Yard to Pensacola the troops were divided into battalions, as follows:

The first battalion, three hundred and fifty strong, to the command of which Colonel James R. Chalmers, 9th Mississippi Regiment, was assigned, was composed of detachments from the 9th and 10th Mississippi and 1st Alabama Regiments.

Three companies of the 7th Regiment Alabama Volunteers, two companies of Louisiana Infantry, and two companies of the 1st Regiment of Florida Volunteers, composed the second battalion, some four hundred strong, to the command of which Colonel J. Patton Anderson, 1st Florida Regiment of Volunteers, was assigned.

The third battalion, two hundred and sixty strong, under command of Colonel John K. Jackson, 5th Regiment Georgia Volunteers, was composed of detachments from the 5th Georgia Regiment and the Georgia Battalion.

An independent company, of fifty-three men, selected from the 5th Georgia Regiment, and Captain Homer's company of Artillery, lightly armed with pistols and knives, carrying materials for spiking cannon, burning and destroying buildings, gun-carriages, &c., was placed under command of Lieutenant Hallonquist, Acting Ordnance Officer.

Lieutenant Nelms, Adjutant 5th Georgia Regiment, was attached to this command.

The medical officers who accompanied the expedition were Dr. Micks, of the Louisiana Infantry; Dr. Tompkins, of the 5th Georgia Regiment; Dr. Golson, of the 9th Mississippi Regiment; Dr. Lipscomb, of the 10th Mississippi Regiment, and Dr. Gamble, of the 1st Florida Regiment; and a detail of twenty men was made to attend on and assist them.

Arriving at Pensacola at about 10 o'clock, P. M., the transfer of the troops to the steamer "Ewing" and the barges and flats which had been provided, was pushed on as rapidly as possible, but not without some unavoidable delay. It was found absolutely necessary to employ the Neaffie to assist us in towing, and at length, all preparations having been completed, the boats departed from Pensacola at a little after 12 o'clock, crossed the bay, and effected a landing at the point which had been indicated by instructions. Disembarkation was rapidly executed in good order and silence, and the battalions were joined upon the beach at a little after 2 A. M.

To effectually accomplish the object of the expedition, Colonel Chalmers was directed to advance rapidly along the north beach, Colonel Anderson along the south beach, and Colonel Jackson, following a few hundred yards in rear of Colonel Chalmers, was to push his command to the middle of the Island, and deploy it as soon as he should hear firing from either of the other battalions, or should perceive from any other indications that the enemy's camp was approached or assailed by the other columns.

Colonels Chalmers and Anderson had been further directed to endeavor to restrain their men from firing, to capture guards and sentinels, and to place their commands, if possible, between Fort Pickens and the camp of the enemy.

Lieutenant Hallonquist followed in rear of Colonel Jackson's Battalion, with orders to do whatever damage he could to the batteries, buildings, and camps, from which the enemy might be driven.

After a march of three or four miles, rendered toilsome and fatiguing by the nature of the ground, the head of Col. Chalmers's column came suddenly upon a sentinel, who fired inefficiently at our troops, and was himself instantly shot down.

The alarm having been thus given, and it becoming impossible to conceal our further advance from the enemy, I or-



dered Col. Jackson to push his way through the thickets to the middle of the Island and advance as rapidly as possible.

The guards and outposts of the Zouaves were now rapidly driven in or shot down, and the progress of a few hundred yards, quickly accomplished by Col. Jackson, brought him upon the camp of the enemy, in advance of either of the other battalions. Without a moment's delay, he charged it with the bayonet, but met with no resistance. The camp was almost entirely deserted, and our troops speedily applied the torch to the tents, store-houses and sheds of Wilson's Zouaves.

In the meantime, Colonels Chalmers and Anderson, advancing along the shores of the Island, encountered pickets and out-posts, with which they had some sharp skirmishing, but quickly beat them off and joined in the work of destroying the camp.

This having been most thoroughly executed, the troops were re-assembled, with a view to proceeding against and destroying the batteries, which lay between the camp and Fort Pickens, but daylight appearing, and there being no longer a possibility of a surprise of the batteries, I directed the signal for retiring to be sounded and the troops to be put in march for the boats. At about half-way between the Zouave camp and the point of disembarkation of our troops, we encountered two companies of United States Regulars, which had passed us under cover of the darkness, and posted themselves behind a dense thicket to intercept our retiring column, and a very sharp but short skirmish ensued. The enemy was speedily driven off, and our troops resumed their march. The re-embarkation was successfully accomplished, and the order given to the steamer to steer for Pensacola, when it was discovered that a hawser had become entangled in the propeller of the Neaffie, and that she could not move. After some delay, from ineffectual attempts to extricate the propeller, she and the large flat which she had in tow were made fast to the Ewing. It was soon found, however, that, with this encumbrance, the Ewing would not obey her helm, and that a change in the manner of towing the Neaffie was necessary. Whilst attempting to make this change, the flats and barges which the Ewing had in tow, became detached from her, and still further delay was occasioned in recovering them.

By the time this had been done the hawser was cut away from the propeller, and the Neaffie proceeded on her way.

The enemy taking advantage of these circumstances, appeared among the sand-hills, near the beach, and opened a fire upon the masses of our troops, densely crowded upon our transports, but without doing much execution, and we were soon out of range of their rifles.

The necessity of using the Neaffie as a tug, and the accident, which, for some time, disabled her, prevented her guns from being brought into play; otherwise she might have rendered effectual service in driving back the enemy, who harrassed us from the beach.

Our loss in this affair was as follows:

*Killed*—Two commissioned officers, four non-commissioned officers, eleven privates, and one citizen volunteer.

*Wounded*—Two commissioned officers, five non-commissioned officers, and thirty-two privates.

*Taken Prisoners*—Five commissioned officers and two non-commissioned officers, and twenty-three privates.

The larger portion of the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates, captured by the enemy, were the guard left for the protection of their hospital and sick, and the medical officers who had remained in the building to attend to such of our wounded as might be carried there.

Notwithstanding that I caused the signal for retiring to be repeatedly sounded during the return of the troops, it was not heard at the hospital, and the guard and medical officers were cut off and taken prisoners.

The loss of the enemy, in killed and wounded, has not been precisely ascertained, but is certainly known to have much exceeded our own.

From such imperfect observation as I made in passing over parts of the ground, I will estimate his loss at fifty or sixty killed and one hundred wounded.

Twenty prisoners were taken, among them, Major Israel Vodges, of the United States Artillery.

The destruction of property in the conflagration was very great. Large stores of provisions, supplies of clothing, camp and garrison equipage, arms and ammunition, were entirely consumed.

Some arms were brought away by our men, and in a few instances money and clothing, as will be seen by the report of Colonel Jackson, and I would respectfully recommend that the captors be permitted to retain whatever private property they have taken.

It is with pride and pleasure that I bear testimony to, and call to the notice of the General commanding, the admirable conduct of the troops throughout the expedition and conflict.

The alacrity, courage and discipline exhibited by them, merit the highest commendation, and give assurance of success in any future encounter which they may have with the enemies of our country.

I beg leave to refer you to the accompanying reports of commanders of battalions, and of Lieutenant Hallonquist, for particulars concerning casualties, incidents and individual instances of meritorious conduct.

I enclose the report of Capt. Brent, C. S. N., who was charged with the entire arrangements for the transportation of my command, under whose direction this important matter was very successfully managed.

The report of Major Lovell, C. S. A., Chief of Harbor Police, and in command of the steamer Neaffie, is also submitted.

The members of my Staff, Captain T. S. Mills, Assistant Adjutant General, and Captain Hugh M. King, Fifth Regiment Georgia Volunteers, Lieutenants Calvin Sayre and Wilbur Johnson, C. S. Marines, (who volunteered their services and acted as my aids,) rendered me active and efficient assistance throughout the whole of the operations.

Captain Mills, who was with Colonel Anderson's Battalion in its first encounter with the enemy, received a severe contusion in the chest from a partially spent ball, but nevertheless continued energetically to perform his duties; and Lieutenant Sayre, whilst fearlessly using his revolver with effect, had his thigh-bone shattered, just above the right knee, by a musket ball, and being left upon the ground, fell into the hands of the enemy.

Captain Hugh M. King, in conveying orders and superintending the destruction of the camp, displayed commendable zeal and activity, and the ardor and intrepidity of Lieut. Johnson, whilst deserving especial notice, give promise of this young officer's future success and distinction.

The officers of the Medical Staff rendered to the wounded every service, which, under the circumstances, was possible.

Colonels Anderson and Jackson pay graceful tribute to the memory of Captain Bradford and Lieutenant Nelms, of their regiments, to which I desire to add my respectful ad-

miration for them, and for every brave patriot who fell with them in defence of their country's liberties.

I am, very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

R. H. ANDERSON,

*Brigadier General Provisional Army.*

Major G. G. GARNER,

*Assist. Adj. Gen. Confederate Army,*

*Headquarters of the Army of Pensacola.*

(Official.)

R. H. CHILTON,

*A. A. General.*



*LIST of Casualties in the Affair of October 8th and 9th,  
1861, on Santa Rosa Island, Florida.*

| NO.      | NAMES.                 | RANK.         | REGIMENT.         | CO. | REMARKS.                                                                        |
|----------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| KILLED.  |                        |               |                   |     |                                                                                 |
| 1        | Richard Bradford. ...  | Captain.      | 1st Florida Vols  | F   | Many reported "wounded" have mere scratches, not disabling them for duty a day. |
| 2        | Wm. R. Routh.....      | Sergeant.     | "                 | A   |                                                                                 |
| 3        | J. Hale.....           | Private.      | "                 | A   |                                                                                 |
| 4        | John J. Thompson....   | "             | "                 | B   |                                                                                 |
| 5        | Wm. E. Smith.....      | "             | "                 | B   |                                                                                 |
| 6        | Henry A. Tillinghast.. | "             | "                 | A   |                                                                                 |
| 7        | L. A. Nelms.....       | 1st Lieut.    | 5th Georgia Vols. | D   |                                                                                 |
| 8        | J. H. Beddo.....       | Sergeant.     | "                 | D   |                                                                                 |
| 9        | C. H. Caton.....       | Corporal.     | "                 | D   |                                                                                 |
| 10       | R. W. Stewart.....     | "             | "                 | H   |                                                                                 |
| 11       | J. H. Adams.....       | Private.      | "                 | A   |                                                                                 |
| 12       | F. J. Cook.....        | "             | "                 | A   |                                                                                 |
| 13       | John Staunton.....     | "             | "                 | C   |                                                                                 |
| 14       | J. S. Jones.....       | "             | "                 | D   |                                                                                 |
| 15       | D. S. Cody.....        | "             | "                 | D   |                                                                                 |
| 16       | James Smith.....       | "             | "                 | H   |                                                                                 |
| 17       | Wm. Holbrook.....      | "             | 1st La. Infantry. | B   |                                                                                 |
| 18       | J. B. Higgins.....     | "             | Ga. and Miss.     | D   |                                                                                 |
| 19       | J. E. Holmes.....      | "             | "                 | D   |                                                                                 |
| 20       | Lewis Holmes.....      | "             | "                 | D   |                                                                                 |
| WOUNDED. |                        |               |                   |     |                                                                                 |
| 1        | R. H. Anderson.....    | Brig. Gen.    | Provis'l Army.    |     | Seriously.                                                                      |
| 2        | Thomas S. Mills.....   | Captain.      | A. G. D. P. A.    |     |                                                                                 |
| 3        | A. R. Sharet.....      | Private.      | 1st Florida Vols. | B   | Seriously.                                                                      |
| 4        | Joseph Hicks.....      | "             | "                 | B   |                                                                                 |
| 5        | Peter O'Neal.....      | "             | "                 | K   | Seriously.                                                                      |
| 6        | Wm. Denham.....        | "             | "                 | A   |                                                                                 |
| 7        | Newton Rice.....       | "             | 5th Georgia Vols. | A   | Slightly.                                                                       |
| 8        | W. H. Smith.....       | "             | "                 | A   | Slightly.                                                                       |
| 9        | Thomas O'Connor.....   | "             | "                 | C   | Slightly.                                                                       |
| 10       | Edward Flynn.....      | "             | "                 | C   | Seriously.                                                                      |
| 11       | T. A. Allen.....       | "             | "                 | D   | Slight'y.                                                                       |
| 12       | S. C. Wheeler.....     | "             | "                 | D   | Slightly.                                                                       |
| 13       | E. C. Cody.....        | "             | "                 | D   | Slight'y.                                                                       |
| 14       | W. B. B. Cason.....    | "             | "                 | D   | Slightly.                                                                       |
| 15       | R. C. Hays.....        | "             | "                 | E   | Mortally.                                                                       |
| 16       | Thos. Caldwell.....    | "             | "                 | E   | Seriously.                                                                      |
| 17       | Wm. C. Gorick.....     | "             | "                 | F   | Seriously.                                                                      |
| 18       | Walter S. Tuggle.....  | Corporal.     | 5th Ala. Vols.    |     | Since dead.                                                                     |
| 19       | J. M. Handley.....     | 2d Lieut.     | 7th Ala. Vols.    | A   | Slightly.                                                                       |
| 20       | E. H. Muse.....        | Sergeant.     | "                 | A   | Since dead.                                                                     |
| 21       | T. B. Thompson.....    | Corporal.     | "                 | A   | Severely.                                                                       |
| 22       | H. H. Webb.....        | Private.      | "                 | A   | Slightly.                                                                       |
| 23       | W. A. Gllmer.....      | "             | "                 | A   | Slightly.                                                                       |
| 24       | J. W. Carllle.....     | "             | "                 | A   | Slightly.                                                                       |
| 25       | A. E. Deshaze.....     | "             | "                 | E   | Slightly.                                                                       |
| 26       | Jefferson Quick.....   | "             | "                 | E   |                                                                                 |
| 27       | W. T. Price.....       | "             | "                 | E   |                                                                                 |
| 28       | S. G. Farmer.....      | "             | 1st Ala. Vols.    | G   |                                                                                 |
| 29       | B. L. Abston.....      | 1st Sergeant. | 9th Miss. Vols.   | F   |                                                                                 |
| 30       | John S. Garrison.....  | Private.      | "                 | F   |                                                                                 |
| 31       | T. K. Stillmao.....    | "             | "                 | D   |                                                                                 |
| 32       | J. B. Day.....         | "             | "                 | K   |                                                                                 |
| 33       | James P. Barksdale...  | Sergeant.     | 10th Miss. Vols.  | G   |                                                                                 |
| 34       | Ira Martin.....        | Private.      | "                 | K   |                                                                                 |
| 35       | John Claxton.....      | "             | 1st La. Infantry. | B   | Since dead.                                                                     |
| 36       | — Duffy.....           | "             | "                 | B   | Since dead.                                                                     |
| 37       | Michael Mort mer.....  | "             | "                 | B   |                                                                                 |
| 38       | A. C. Hollingsworth... | Sergeant.     | Ga. and Miss.     | D   | Since dead.                                                                     |
| 39       | Wm. M. Elder.....      | Private.      | "                 | D   | Severely.                                                                       |
| 40       | C. N. Ketchum.....     | "             | "                 | D   |                                                                                 |
| 41       | J. W. Sewell.....      | "             | "                 | D   | Slightly.                                                                       |
| 42       | J. H. Day.....         | "             | "                 | D   | Slightly.                                                                       |

*List of Casualties—Continued.*

| NO.       | NAMES.                 | RANK.         | REGIMENT.         | CO. | REMARKS.            |
|-----------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----|---------------------|
| PRISONERS |                        |               |                   |     |                     |
| 1         | Calvin Sayre.....      | 1st Sergeant. | C. S. Marines.    |     | wounded—paroled.    |
| 2         | F. M. Farley .....     | 2d “          | 1st Florida Vols. | E   |                     |
| 3         | Thomas R. Bond .....   | Private.      | “                 | A   |                     |
| 4         | Robert L. Hale.....    | “             | “                 | A   |                     |
| 5         | John Mahony.....       | “             | “                 | B   |                     |
| 6         | Larkin Nickles.....    | “             | “                 | B   | Wounded.            |
| 7         | Benj. F. Parker.....   | “             | “                 | E   |                     |
| 8         | F. Y. Finley.....      | “             | “                 | E   |                     |
| 9         | John E. Godley.....    | “             | “                 | F   |                     |
| 10        | Columb. F. Hollyman.   | “             | “                 | F   |                     |
| 11        | J. J. H. Patterson.... | “             | “                 | F   | Wounded—since dead. |
| 12        | B. R. Holt.....        | “             | 5th Georgia Vols. | A   |                     |
| 13        | G. W. Clarke.....      | “             | “                 | H   |                     |
| 14        | T. W. Everett.....     | “             | “                 | I   |                     |
| 15        | John Burgess.....      | “             | 5th Ala. Vols.    |     |                     |
| 16        | W. H. Moore.....       | Corporal.     | 7th Ala. Vols.    | A   | Wounded—since dead. |
| 17        | Henry Ferguson.....    | Private.      | “                 | D   |                     |
| 18        | J. M. Fry.....         | “             | “                 | D   |                     |
| 19        | L. Moore.....          | “             | “                 | G   |                     |
| 20        | M. J. Moseley.....     | “             | 1st Florida Vols. | F   |                     |
| 21        | Wm. J. Jarvis.....     | “             | “                 | F   | Paroled.            |
| 22        | S. C. Gholson.....     | Ass't Surg.   | 9th Miss. Vols.   |     |                     |
| 23        | F. G. DeRoche, M. D.   | Hos. Stew'd.  | “                 |     |                     |
| 24        | Lownes Lipscomb.....   | Ass't Surg.   | 10th Miss. Vols.  |     |                     |
| 25        | Wm Maulding.....       | Private.      | “                 | K   |                     |
| 26        | H. Deshinger.....      | “             | “                 | C   | Paroled.            |
| 27        | J. D. Cooper.....      | 1st Lieut.    | 1st La. Infantry. |     |                     |
| 28        | Daniel Jones.....      | Private.      | “                 | A   |                     |
| 29        | Frank Passent.....     | “             | “                 | A   |                     |
| 30        | J. McL. Jones.....     | “             | “                 | D   |                     |
| 31        | W. L. Jones.....       | “             | “                 | D   |                     |
| 32        | J. B. Cox.....         | “             | “                 | D   |                     |

Official,

(Signed.)

GEORGE W. GARNER,

*Major and Ass't Adj't General.*

(Official.)

R. H. CHILTON,

*Ass't Adj't General.*

REPORT OF THE ENGAGEMENT OF THE SEVENTH  
BRIGADE, WITH THE FEDERAL FORCES, ON  
THE 21<sup>ST</sup> AND 22<sup>ND</sup> OF OCTOBER, AT LEESBURG,  
VIRGINIA, BRIGADIER GENERAL EVANS COM-  
MANDING.

---

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH BRIGADE,  
LEESBURG, VA., OCT. 31<sup>ST</sup>, 1861. }

COLONEL :

I beg leave to submit the following report of the action of the troops of the Seventh Brigade, in the battle of the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>d</sup> instants, with the enemy at Leesburg, Virginia :

On Saturday night, the 19<sup>th</sup> instant, about 7 o'clock, P. M., the enemy commenced a heavy cannonading from three batteries, one playing on my entrenchment, (known as Fort Evans,) one on the Leesburg Turnpike, and one on Edward's Ferry. Heavy firing was also heard in the direction of Dranesville.

At 12 o'clock at night, I ordered my entire Brigade to the Burnt Bridge on the Turnpike. The enemy had been reported as approaching from Dranesville in large force. Taking a strong position on the North side of Goose Creek, I awaited his approach.

Reconnoitering the Turnpike on Sunday morning, the courier of Gen. McCall was captured, bearing dispatches to Gen. Meade, to examine the roads leading to Leesburg. From this prisoner I learned the position of the enemy near Dranesville. During Sunday the enemy kept up a deliberate fire without any effect.

Early on Monday morning, the 21st inst., I heard the firing of my pickets at Big Spring, who had discovered that at an unguarded point, the enemy had effected a crossing in force of five companies and were advancing on Leesburg. Capt. Duff, of the 17th Regiment, immediately attacked him, driving him back with several killed and wounded.

On observing the movements of the enemy from Fort Evans, at six o'clock, A. M., I found he had effected a crossing both at Edward's Ferry and Ball's Bluff, and I made preparations to meet him in both positions, and immediately ordered four companies infantry, (two of the 18th, one of the 17th, and one of the 13th,) and a cavalry force to relieve Capt. Duff; the whole force under the immediate command of Lt. Col. W. H. Jenifer, who was directed to hold his position till the enemy made further demonstration of his design of attack. This force soon became warmly engaged with the enemy and drove them back for some distance in the woods.

At about 10 o'clock, I became convinced that the main point of attack would be at Ball's Bluff, and ordered Col. Hunton, with his Regiment, the 8th Virginia Volunteers, to repair immediately to the support of Col. Jenifer.

I directed Col. Hunton to form line of battle immediately in the rear of Col. Jenifer's command, and to drive the enemy to the river; that I would support his right with artillery. About twenty minutes past 12 o'clock, meridian, Colonel Hunton united his command with that of Colonel Jenifer, and both commands soon became hotly engaged with the enemy in their strong position in the woods. Watching carefully the action, I saw the enemy were constantly being reinforced, and at half-past two o'clock, P. M., ordered Col. Burt to march his regiment, the 18th Mississippi, and attack the left flank of the enemy, while Col's Hunton and Jenifer attacked him in front. On arriving at his position, Col. Burt was received with a tremendous fire from the enemy, concealed in a ravine, and was compelled to divide his regiment to stop the flank movement of the enemy.

At this time, about three o'clock, finding the enemy were in large force, I ordered Col. Featherston, with his regiment, the 17th Mississippi, to repair, at double-quick, to the support of Col. Burt, where he arrived in twenty minutes, and the action became general along my whole line, and was very hot and brisk for more than two hours, the enemy keeping up a constant fire with his batteries, on both sides of the river.



At about six o'clock, P. M., I saw that my command had driven the enemy near the banks of the Potomac; I ordered my entire force to charge and to drive him into the river. The charge was immediately made by the whole command, and the forces of the enemy were completely routed, and cried out for quarter along his whole line.

In this charge the enemy were driven back at the point of the bayonet, and many killed and wounded by this formidable weapon. In the precipitate retreat of the enemy on the Bluffs of the river, many of his troops rushed into the water and were drowned; while many others, in overloading the boats, sunk them, and shared the same fate. The rout now, about seven o'clock, became complete, and the enemy commenced throwing his arms into the river.

During this action, I held Col. Wm. Barksdale, with nine companies of his regiment, the 13th Mississippi, and six pieces of artillery as a reserve, as well as to keep up a demonstration against the force of the enemy at Edward's Ferry.

At eight o'clock, P. M., the enemy surrendered his forces at Ball's Bluff, and the prisoners were marched to Leesburg.

I then ordered my Brigade, (with the exception of the 13th Regiment Mississippi, who remained in front of Edward's Ferry,) to retire to the town of Leesburg and rest for the night.

On Tuesday morning I was informed by Colonel Barksdale that the enemy were still in considerable force at Edward's Ferry. I directed him to make a thorough reconnoissance of the position and strength of the enemy and attack him. At 2 o'clock, P. M., he gallantly attacked a much superior force in their entrenchments, driving them to the bank of the river, killing thirty or forty, and wounding a considerable number.

About sundown, the enemy being strongly reinforced and stationed in rifle pits, Colonel Barksdale wisely retired with his regiment to Fort Evans, leaving a guard of two companies to watch the movements of the enemy, who, evidently expecting a renewed attack, retired during the night, and re-crossed the river at Edward's Ferry.

On Wednesday morning, finding my Brigade very much exhausted, I left Colonel Barksdale, with his regiment, with two pieces of artillery and a cavalry force, as a grand guard, and I ordered the other three regiments to fall back towards Carter's Mill to rest and to be collected in order. Colonel

Hunton, with his regiment and two pieces of artillery, were halted at a strong position on the south bank of the Sycolin, about three miles south of Leesburg.

I would here state, that on an interview on Monday night, with the commissioned officers of the Federal Army taken prisoners, I was convinced that they expected to be re-captured either during the night or the next day, and as the captured officers refused their parole not to take up arms against the Southern Confederacy, until duly exchanged, I ordered the whole number to be immediately marched to Manassas. This parole was only offered to give them the liberty of the town, as I did not wish to confine them with the privates.

In the engagement on the 21st of October, which lasted nearly thirteen hours, our loss from a force of seventeen hundred and nine, aggregate, was as follows:

| EIGHTH REGIMENT VA. VOLS.      | KILLED. | WOUNDED. |
|--------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Commissioned officers.....     | 0       | 4        |
| Non-commissioned officers..... | 3       | 2        |
| Privates.....                  | 5       | 37       |
|                                | —       | —        |
| Total.....                     | 8       | 43       |

Since died of wounds, three privates and one lieutenant taken prisoner.

| THIRTEENTH REGIMENT MISS. VOLS.  | KILLED. | WOUNDED. |
|----------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Commissioned officers (22d)..... | 1       | 0        |
| Non-commissioned officers.....   | 0       | 0        |
| Privates.....                    | 3       | 2        |
|                                  | —       | —        |
| Total.....                       | 4       | 2        |

One private taken prisoner.

| SEVENTEENTH REGIMENT MISS. VOLS. | KILLED. | WOUNDED. |
|----------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Commissioned officers.....       | 0       | 1        |
| Non-commissioned officers.....   | 0       | 0        |
| Privates.....                    | 2       | 8        |
|                                  | —       | —        |
| Total.....                       | 2       | 9        |

## EIGHTEENTH REGIMENT MISS. VOLS.      KILLED.      WOUNDED.

|                                |       |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Commissioned officers.....     | 0     | 7     |
| Non-commissioned officers..... | 2     | 6     |
| Privates.....                  | 20    | 50    |
|                                | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total.....                     | 22    | 63    |
|                                | <hr/> |       |
| Total loss killed and wounded, | 153   |       |
| Taken prisoners.....           | 2     | —155  |

The force of the enemy, as far as I have been able to ascertain, was five regiments and three pieces of artillery at Ball's Bluff, and four regiments, two batteries and a squadron of cavalry at Edward's Ferry, numbering in all about eight thousand troops.

In addition to this force, three batteries of long range were constantly firing on my troops from the Maryland side of the river.

The loss of the enemy so far as known is as follows :

Thirteen hundred killed, wounded and drowned ;

Captured seven hundred and ten prisoners ;

Fifteen hundred stand of arms ;

Three pieces of cannon ;

One stand of colors, a large number of cartridge boxes, bayonet scabbards and a quantity of camp furniture.

Among the killed of the enemy was General Baker, formerly Senator from Oregon, and several other commissioned officers.

Among the prisoners taken were twenty-two commissioned officers, the names of whom have already been furnished.

General C. P. Stone commanded the Federal forces until 3 o'clock, A. M., on the morning of the 22d, when he was superseded by Major General N. P. Banks.

The engagement on our side was fought entirely with the musket ; the artillery was in position to do effective service should the enemy have advanced from their cover.

The enemy were armed with the Minnie musket, the Belgian gun, and Springfield musket ; a telescopic target rifle was also among the arms found.

In closing my report, I would call the attention of the General commanding to the heroism and gallantry displayed by the officers and men of the 7th Brigade, in the action of the 21st and 22d of October. The promptness with which



every commander obeyed, and the spirit with which their men executed my orders to attack the enemy, in much superior force, and in a position where he had great advantages, entitles them to the thanks of the Southern Confederacy. Without food or rest, for more than twelve hours previous to the commencement of the battle, they drove an enemy, four times their number, from the soil of Virginia, killing and taking prisoners a greater number than our whole force engaged. To witness the patience, enthusiasm and devotion of the troops to our cause, during an action of thirteen hours, excited my warmest admiration.

As my entire Brigade exceeded my most sanguine expectations, in their intrepidity and endurance, I am unable to individualize any particular command, as the tenacity with which each regiment held their positions, was equalled only by their undaunted courage and firm determination to conquer.

To my General Staff I am much indebted. Maj. John D. Rogers, Brigade Quartermaster, was directed to conduct the baggage trains beyond Goose Creek, which difficult duty was performed in the night with great regularity. Captain Orr, Brigade Commissary, was actively engaged in securing commissary stores and in providing cooked rations for the Brigade. To my Acting Aid-de-Camp, Lieut. Chas. B. Wildman, of the 17th Regiment Virginia Volunteers, and my Volunteer Aid, Mr. Wm. H. Rogers, I am particularly indebted for services on the field of battle. Lieut. Wildman conducted the 18th Regiment, and Mr. Rogers the 17th Regiment of Mississippi Volunteers to their respective positions in the action, and both repeatedly bore my orders under heavy fire.

Capt. A. L. Evans, Assistant Adjutant General, though detained by other duty till 2 o'clock, P. M., rendered valuable services.

The Medical Staff, both Brigade and Regimental, were all actively engaged during the day in removing the dead and wounded, and in patriotically administering relief to the dying on the field.

I am pained to report the fall of the gallant Colonel E. R. Burt, of the 18th Regiment Mississippi Volunteers. He was mortally wounded about four o'clock, P. M., while gallantly leading his regiment under a tremendous fire. \* \* His loss is truly severe to his regiment and to our common cause.



At about 2 o'clock, P. M., on the 21st a message was sent to Brigadier General R. L. White to bring his militia force to my assistance at Fort Evans. He reported to me, in person, that he was unable to get his men to turn out, though there were a great number in town, and arms and ammunition were offered them.

The prisoners taken were sent to Manassas under charge of Capt. O. R. Singleton, of the 18th Regiment of Mississippi Volunteers, with his company, and Captain W. A. R. Jones, of the 17th Regiment Mississippi Volunteers, and a detachment of cavalry; the whole under command of Capt. Singleton, who conducted 529 prisoners nearly twenty-five miles, after the great fatigue of the battle.

Accompanying this report, I enclose an accurate map of the field of battle, and the reports of the immediate commanders. To the latter I would respectfully refer for individual acts of gallantry and patriotism.

I also forward the report of the Field Officer of the day, Lieut. Col. McGuirk, of the 17th Regiment Mississippi Volunteers, to whom I am much indebted for information of the flank movements of the enemy.

Lieut. Sheffield Duval, here on duty as Topographical Engineer, and Sergeant Wm. R. Chambliss, of the 18th Regiment Mississippi Volunteers, my private secretary, rendered material service—the former by fighting on foot with his musket as a private—the latter by conveying my orders on the field of battle, under heavy fire.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed.)

N. G. EVANS,

*Brigadier General commanding 7th Brigade.*

To Lieut. Col. THOMAS JORDAN, *Assist. Adj. General.*

*1st Corps Army of Potomac, near Centreville.*

(Official.)

JOHN WITHERS,

*A. A. General.*



REPORT OF THE BOMBARDMENT OF FORTS WALKER AND BEAUREGARD, ON THE 7TH NOVEMBER, 1861, THOMAS F. DRAYTON, BRIGADIER GENERAL COMMANDING.

---

HEADQUARTERS PROVISIONAL FORCES, }  
3d MILITARY DISTRICT, DEP'T S. C., }  
CAMP LEE, HARDEEVILLE, }  
November 24th, 1861. }

TO CAPTAIN L. D. WALKER,

*Ass't Ad't Gen'l, Charleston, S. C. :*

SIR: I have the honor of presenting my official report of the engagement, on the 7th inst., between the Federal fleet, numbering fifteen war steamers and gun-boats, and Forts Walker and Beauregard, upon Hilton Head and Bay Point, at the entrance of Port Royal Sound. The fleet was commanded by Captain S. F. Dupont, Flag Officer of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, and the troops on board the transports by Brigadier General Sherman.

The distance between the forts is by coast survey 25-8 miles.

The enemy's fleet had been collecting in our waters since the morning of the 4th instant, and had increased in the afternoon to thirty-two war steamers and transports.

On receiving a despatch to this effect from Colonel William C. Heyward, commanding the troops at Camp Walker, I left my headquarters in Beaufort and repaired by steamer to Bay Point, which I reached at 6, P. M., passing on the way the ever-watchful little fleet of Flag Officer Tatnall, Confederate States Navy.

After remaining in consultation until 1.30, A. M., with Colonel R. G. M. Dunovant, commandant of the post, I took my departure, leaving him such general instructions as the uncertain mode and direction, from which an attack might

be expected, would permit. I then visited Commodore Tannall, and after an interchange of views, took leave, crossed over to Hilton Head Island, landed there at day light on the 5th, and immediately despatched a courier to Braddock's Point, south end of the Island, ordering Captain Stuart's Company, 9th Regiment, to march on Fort Walker and embark thence to strengthen Captain Elliott's gunners in Fort Beauregard. This company did not leave on the 6th, as proposed, as Captain Sassard, of the steamer Edisto, failed to comply with his orders to carry it across early in the morning. They were dispatched, however, by the first steamer at my disposal on the 7th, and before they had reached half-way across the bay, they were cut off from Bay Point by the advancing fleet of the enemy, and obliged to seek shelter in Skull Creek, where Captain Stuart disembarked his whole command in safety.

On inspecting Fort Walker shortly after my arrival, I found twenty guns, of various calibre, mounted upon the ramparts, thirteen of which were on the Channel Battery, viz :

One 10-inch columbiad in the center, flanked to the right by five 32-pounders and one 9-inch Dahlgreen rifle cannon, and to the left by six other cannon in the following order : one 32-pounder, one 8-inch columbiad, three 42-pounders and one rifled 24-pounder.

North bastion,.....1 32-pounder.

South " .....1 32-pounder.

" " .....1 8-inch howitzer.

" " .....1 long 12-pounder.

South flank of bastion,.....1 navy 32-pounder.

Demilune,.....2 24-pounder.

Redan,.....1 navy 8-inch howitzer.

Of these eight guns, one in the north bastion, and two in the south flank, could occasionally be used against the ships of war; the rest were for the land defence.

To man the guns within the fort, and for an infantry reserve outside, we had, until reinforcements came from Savannah, on the afternoon of the 6th, two companies of Colonel Wagoner's 1st Regiment Artillery South Carolina Militia, numbering.....152 men.

Three companies Col. Heyward's 9th Reg. S. C. V. 210 "

Four companies of Col. R. G. M. Dunovant's "

12th Reg. S. C. V., under Major Jones.....260 "

---

Total.....622 "



There were stationed on the beach at Camp Lookout, six miles off, Captain J. H. Screven's mounted guerrillas, numbering sixty-five, who acted as scouts and couriers.

About 9 o'clock, A. M., of the 5th, Commodore Tatnall, who had boldly attacked the enemy's gun-boats on the previous day, again gallantly steamed out to exchange shots with them, but he was met by too large a force, and therefore, retired slowly behind our forts. The enemy followed and engaged both batteries for about forty-five minutes, with no other injury than three men slightly burnt, in Fort Beauregard, from the explosion of a caisson struck by a rifle shell.

On the 6th instant the fleet and transports, which had increased to about forty-five sail, would probably have attacked us, had not the weather been very boisterous. In the afternoon about 4, P. M., we received our first reinforcements from Georgia, four hundred and fifty infantry, under command of Captain Berry, C. S. A., and Captain Read's Battery, of two 12-pound howitzers, and fifty men.

I have reason for supposing that this assistance would have arrived sooner, for General A. R. Lawton, commanding Provisional Forces in Georgia, wrote from Savannah to Colonel W. C. Heyward on the 4th instant, 8.30, P. M., as follows: "From a despatch received to-day from General Ripley, I infer that you (Colonel W. C. Heyward) have been sufficiently reinforced from his command, until the plans of the enemy shall be more fully developed."

Two hours after the gallant Georgians came to the rescue, I received the welcome intelligence that Col. DeSaussure's 15th Regiment South Carolina Volunteers, six hundred and fifty strong, had landed at Seabrook's Wharf, upon Skull Creek, and were close at hand.

At last the memorable 7th dawned upon us, bright and serene; not a ripple upon the broad expanse of water, to disturb the accuracy of fire from the broad decks of that magnificent armada, about advancing in battle array, to vomit forth its iron hail, with all the spiteful energy of long-suppressed rage and conscious strength. At 9.25 A. M., one 9-inch Dahlgreen gun opened fire upon the sixty-gun steamship Wabash, flag-ship of Captain S. F. Dupont, which led the van, closely succeeded by fourteen other large steamers and gun-boats.

The shell from the Dahlgreen exploded near the muzzle, and was harmless. Other shots followed from both forts, and soon the fire became general on land and water. In

spite of our fire, directed with deliberation and coolness, the fleet soon passed both batteries, apparently unharmed, and then returning, delivered in their changing rounds, a terrific shower of shot and shell in flank and front.

Besides this moving battery, the fort was enfiladed by two gun-boats, anchored to the north, off the mouth of Fish Hall creek, (F H) on sketch, and another at a point (C) on the edge of the shoal to the south. This enfilading fire, on so still a sea, annoyed and damaged us excessively, particularly as we had no gun on either flank of the bastion to reply with; for the 32-pounder on the right flank was shattered very early by a round shot; and in the north flank, for want of a carriage, no gun had been mounted. After the *fourth* fire, the 10-inch columbiad bounded over the hurters, and became useless. The 24-pounder rifled cannon was choked while ramming down a shell, and lay idle during nearly the whole engagement.

The shells for the 9-inch Dahlgreen were also too large; the fourth shell attempted to be rammed home could not be driven below the trunnions, and was then, at great risk, discharged.

Thus far, the fire of the enemy had been endured and replied to with the unruffled courage of veterans. At 10.30 our gunners became so fatigued that I left the fort, accompanied by one of my Volunteer Aids, Captain H. Rose, and went back to Captain Read's Battery, (one and three-quarter miles in the rear of the fort,) and brought the greater part of his men back, to take the places of our exhausted men inside the fort.

It was while thus engaged with Captain Read's company, that Col. W. H. Stiles rode up and reported his regiment, about two miles off. I instantly directed my Aid, Lieut. Drayton, to accompany Col. Stiles to the road along which his regiment was advancing, and to station it in position by the side of the other Georgia troops. On entering the fort with Capt. Read's company, they were cordially greeted by both officers and men.

The vigorous attack from the fleet continued unabated, with still no decided damage to any of their ships. About 12.30, P. M., I again went out of the fort, with my Assistant Adjutant General, Captain Young, for the purpose of mustering together the infantry and reserves, and have them in readiness for any eventuality. Before leaving, however,

I turned over the command to Col. Heyward, with directions to hold out as long as any effective fire could be returned.

Having mounted our horses, we rejoined the troops near Hospital No. 2. I received information, through one of the videttes, that a steamer and small boats were sounding close to the beach; I detached Capt. Berry, with three companies of his battalion, under the guidance of Capt. Ephraim Barnard, Volunteer Aid, by a road marked K, to watch the enemy, beat them back if they attempted to land, and give notice if he wanted support. I then, with some of my staff, rode to collect together the other troops, who, through ignorance of our Island roads, had lost their way and had not yet come up.

On the road marked D, leading to wharf on Skull creek, about one-and-one-fourth of a mile from Fort Walker, I unexpectedly met Gen. Ripley and staff. Saluting him, I enquired if he visited the Island to assume command, and whether he wished to go back with me into the fort? He said no, but that he would return to Coosawhatchie to collect and bring back two or three regiments to my support. We then moved from under the fire of the ships to the shelter of some myrtles, where we could not be seen.

I then stated to him the incidents of the morning; how the men had fought; that the day was going against us; and that I was then collecting my forces for any emergency that might arise, and if compelled to defend the Island, it should be retained to the last extremity. We then parted, he taking the road towards the ferry, and I in pursuit of the purposes which brought me out of the fort.

On reaching my reserves, at Hospital No. 2, I learned that the enemy had ceased making soundings, and had gone back to sea; whereupon, I dispatched Capt. Read to order Capt. Berry to return from the beach.

Two o'clock had now arrived, when I noticed our men coming out of the fort, which they had bravely defended for four-and-a-half hours, against fearful odds, and then only retiring when all but *three* of the guns in the water front had been disabled, and only five hundred pounds of powder in the magazine—commencing the action with two hundred and twenty men *inside* the fort, afterwards increased to two hundred and fifty-five, by the accession from Read's Battery. These heroic men retired slowly and sadly from their well-served guns, which, to have defended longer, would have



exhibited the energy of despair, rather than the manly pluck of the true soldier.

The defence of this post, involved a two-fold preparation:

First, to repel the attack from the fleet; and second, an assault by the beach from the troops upon the transports.

By the beach we had to provide against an attack from the north, under cover of the Bluff south of Fish Hall Creek, (marked on map F. H.;) and from the south, (S,) by the beach under cover of the woods between (J and S) where a picket of twenty-five men were posted under Capt Paul H. Seabrook; and lastly, by the Road marked (K) leading from the beach to the Second Hospital. To guard against surprise, either by Fish Hall Creek, or by the beach, at (J and S) when I was returning to the Fort, with a portion of Capt. Read's company, I, at the same time, lead up Col. DeSaussure's Regiment to the hollow (marked P) west of the road, and directed them to lie down. They were perfectly masked from the fire of the Fort, but not from that of the fleet, for the watchmen at the mast-heads gave notice of their position, compelling Col. DeSaussure, after a short time, to fall back, under a heavy fire, to a less dangerous locality.

Had the entrenched camp, with store-houses and magazines, been made in time, several lives and large quantities of public property might have been saved. But it was impossible to have made this within the short time and with the diminutive force at my disposal, for on my arrival at headquarters in Beaufort, on the night of the 17th of October, the number of troops at Camp Walker were but three hundred and sixty-two, afterwards increased on the 24th to six hundred and twenty-two, by the accession of four companies under Major Jones, of 12th Regiment South Carolina Volunteers. To this, may be added, the Engineer force of some sixty men, who, with the soldiers, worked incessantly day and night. As an evidence of what they accomplished: the eight-inch columbiad, on the water front, was only mounted on the first of November; one eight-inch howitzer, in the salient of the south bastion, mounted on the 4th; one thirty-two pounder on the right flank of the bastion, mounted on the 5th; one eight-inch howitzer, mounted on a ship carriage; embrasure cut through parapet of demilune, on the night of the 5th; covered way and hot shot furnace for forty-two pounders, constructed of earth and dry masonry, on the morning of the 6th—together with wads of moss and hay for same, splinter-proof, occupying only one-half terreplein behind the principal



traverse—was finished on the morning of the engagement, (7th instant), the material not having arrived before the 4th instant.

The retreat was commenced about three, P. M., towards Ferry Point, about six miles off, Col. DeSaussure's Regiment, and Capt. J. Read's company of Artillery bringing up the rear. At 1.30, A. M., by the aid of Commodore Tatnall's fleet, the steamers St. John's and Edisto and three large flats, capable of holding one hundred and fifty men each, the troops were all safely embarked, without provisions; no ammunition but what was contained in the cartridge boxes, (the 100,000 cartridges I had made requisition for, and been anxiously expecting, not having reached us till after the battle). Fearing that our retreat would be cut off by the enemy's gun-boats at Skull creek, no other alternative was left, but to leave the Island and concentrate upon the mainland, where we would be enabled to fight the enemy on more equal terms, should he venture beyond the protection of his fleet and attack us there.

The muskets captured by the enemy, with the exception of some ten or fifteen, were those left in the Fort, shattered by shot and shell—others left in camp, belonging to men on sick leave, or to those engaged in heating hot shot furnaces, two days before the fight—and some boxes of arms which had been left on the wharf the night before the battle, belonging to the sick men of Col. DeSaussure's Regiment, who had been left behind at Lightwood Knot. These could have been saved, with a box of swords, if the captain of the steamers Edisto and St. Johns had not refused to take them on board, when directed to do so.

To Capt. Tatnall, Flag-Officer C. S. N., and the officers and men of his little fleet, I cannot too highly express my admiration of their intrepidity and hardihood, in attacking the enemy's gun boats, on the 4th and 5th instants. These encounters, by interrupting their soundings and the location of their buoys, no doubt prevented our being attacked on Tuesday, *the 5th instant, before our reinforcements reached us.* I must also acknowledge the assistance extended to us by the gallant Commodore, with his boats, on the night of our retreat from the Island.

#### FORT BEAUREGARD.

The attack upon this Fort, though not so concentrated and heavy as that upon Walker, was nevertheless very severe.

Its armament (see accompanying sketch) was nineteen guns, of which the following, viz.:

One 8 inch Rodman, bored to 24 pounder, and rifled,

Two 42 pounders,

One 10 inch columbiad,

Two 42 pounders, reamed to 8 inches, and

One 32 pounder, in hot shot battery,

Were the only guns capable of being used against the fleet.

The force on Bay Point was six hundred and forty men, commanded by Col. R. G. M. Dunovant, 12th Regiment S. C. Volunteers. Of the above, one hundred and forty-nine garrisoned Fort Beauregard, under the immediate command of Captain Stephen Elliott, Jr., Beaufort Volunteer Artillery Company A, 9th Regiment S. C. Volunteers. The infantry force of Col. Dunovant's Regiment was entrusted with the protection of the eastern part of the Island, and of the defence of the Bastion line at the Island Narrows, where an attack was expected from the enemy.

Knowing how small a force Captain Elliott had to command his batteries, I ordered, as soon as I reached Hilton Head on the 5th inst., Captain Stuart's Company, (Hamilton Guards), 9th Regiment S. C. Volunteers, to march upon Fort Walker, from Braddock's Point, and take thence the steamer Edisto for Bay Point; but the failure of Captain Sassard, of the Edisto, to fulfill his appointment at the hour designated, prevented me from supporting Captain Elliott as I desired. But on Thursday morning, 7th inst., having obtained the steamer Emma, I despatched Captain Stuart's company in her to Fort Beauregard. The rapid advance of the enemy's fleet, however, to the attack on the batteries, cut off and compelled her, at the risk of being intercepted, to turn back and seek shelter in Skull Creek, on the shores of which Captain Stuart's company safely disembarked and joined me in the afternoon; and here again was exhibited another act of heroism, on the part of our veteran Commodore, who, to save the Emma, interposed his own frail flag steamer between her and the advancing flag ship of Commodore Dupont, drawing upon himself her entire broadside, and thus diverting this huge leviathan temporarily from her course, secured the safety of the Emma at the peril of his own vessel.

The non-arrival of any reinforcements at Camp Walker, until the night of the 6th instant, also prevented me from sending the four companies of the 12th Regiment S. C. Vol-

unteers, under Major Jones, to the support of the other six companies of the regiment at Bay Point.

For the details of the engagement at this post, the notable examples of bravery, the general good conduct, their well-timed retreat, in the direction indicated by the dotted red lines on the map appended, I beg leave to refer you to the official reports of Colonel Dunovant and Captain Elliott. But among the many officers and men honorably noticed on this occasion, in the official report of Colonel Dunovant, none of them are so justly entitled to well-merited encomiums as Captain Stephen Elliott, the commander of the Fort. Others may have exhibited an equal amount of cool bravery, in front of the foe, but his opportunities enabled him to surpass all his brother officers in the skillful arrangement of his defences, superb condition of his batteries, and in the high discipline which he had imparted to his model company, the creation of his own indefatigable exertions.

The delays and dangers incident to the manner in which troops and supplies of all kinds were landed at the forts of Port Royal, and the absence of all means of retreat, in case of disaster, had attracted my most serious attention immediately after I assumed command at Beaufort. On the evening of the 17th ult., I immediately took steps for remedying the first and providing for the last.

With the double object of landing supplies in all weather at Bay Point, and at the same time of furnishing the means of retreat beyond the range of the enemy's guns, I directed one of my Volunteer Aids, Capt. T. R. S. Elliott, to make an examination of the adjacent creeks to the north of the Fort. He reported that about three miles from the mouth of Moss Creek there was a depth of water sufficient for steamers drawing seven feet, at low water; and that from thence a causeway of three hundred yards over the marsh might easily be made, and furnish a sure means of transportation, and thus avoid the losses and delays which had previously occurred in landing from the steamers, into flats, upon the beach.

From the point above indicated, in Moss Creek, flats were to have been provided and stationed, to convey the soldiers, in case of emergency, across the creek; thence by land to Station Creek, where other flats were to be placed, for the same object as at Moss Creek; landing at St. Helena the transit to White Hall Ferry, opposite Beaufort, was comparatively safe.



On Hilton Head I also commenced repairing the wharf at Seabrook's landing, on Skull Creek, with a view of transporting stores to Fort Walker, when the weather was too boisterous to land them in the surf. The completion of the wharf was prevented, however, by the unexpected attack of the enemy. Though in its incomplete state, it had already been put to successful use.

I succeeded, however, in obtaining from Charleston two flats and two troop boats, and from Savannah three large flats, capable of containing one hundred and fifty men each, which reached Jenkins Island Ferry in time to assist in embarking our troops on the night of the retreat. Three other smaller ones were sent at the same time to "White Hall Ferry," which assisted in performing the same good offices for Colonel Dunovant's command. The rest of the scheme, for want of time and flats, could not be carried out in the manner I intended.

For the purpose of sending messages between Forts Walker and Beauregard, and thence to my headquarters at Beaufort, I had prepared, by the assistance of Captain Lynch, another of my aids, a number of signal flags, the designs of which had already been prepared and painted, and only needed a few more days to have been put into operation.

In alluding, as I have, to these matters, I do not mean to reflect upon any person, as to say these pressing wants could have been supplied anterior to the period when I entered upon my new duties. My design has been to exhibit the condition in which I found my command, and to show that I have left no effort untried to improve it.

Notwithstanding the prompt measures, adopted by Col. Dunovant, to effect his retreat in the direction of the narrows, it is surprising that, with the knowledge possessed by the enemy, (through Mr. Boutelle and others connected with the coast survey,) that his retreat had not been intercepted by gun boats passing up towards Beaufort, and mine by other steamers taking the passage through Skull Creek, towards the ferry landings. Why they did not adopt this course, must be left to time to explain.



## CASUALTIES.

The following is a correct list of killed, wounded, missing and taken prisoners:

|                                                                             |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Killed in Fort Walker.....                                                  | 10 |
| Wounded in Fort Walker.....                                                 | 20 |
| Killed in Colonel DeSaussure's 15th Regiment South Carolina Volunteers..... | 1  |
| Wounded severely.....                                                       | 15 |
| Wounded in Fort Beauregard.....                                             | 13 |
| <hr/>                                                                       |    |
| Total killed and wounded.....                                               | 59 |
| Missing.....                                                                | 4  |
| Taken prisoners, sick in hospital.....                                      | 3  |
| <hr/>                                                                       |    |

Total killed, wounded, missing and taken prisoners.66

The heads of the Quartermaster's and Commissary's Departments, Major E. Willis and Captain C. D. Owens, have discharged their several duties with economy and fidelity. The reports hereunto appended, of these officers and their assistants, show how unwearied and earnest were their efforts to save the public property left at the headquarters in Beaufort. I must likewise make honorable mention of Colonel Wm. C. Heyward, Ninth Regiment South Carolina Volunteers, who commanded in Fort Walker and its vicinity, and who, during the battle, made the best use of the means at his disposal. Colonel John A. Wagoner, First Regiment Artillery South Carolina Militia, supported by Major Arthur M. Huger, of the same regiment, was placed in the immediate command of all the batteries, nine of which, upon the water front, were manned by the German Artillery companies A and B, Captains Harms and Werner, First Regiment Artillery, South Carolina Militia, all of whom fought, under the flag of their adopted country, with an enthusiasm which could not have been surpassed, had they been fighting in defence of their own fatherland.

The remaining four batteries, on the left flank of the water front, were under the direction of Capt. Josiah Bedon, Ninth Regiment South Carolina Volunteers; and the flanking and rear guns of the fort, were manned by detachments from Captains Bedon's, Cannady's and White's companies, Ninth Regiment South Carolina Volunteers. Major F. D. Lee, South Carolina Engineers, and constructing Engineer of Fort

Walker, not only fought gallantly at the batteries, but afforded valuable assistance at other points in the work during the contest.

Captain Joseph A. Yates, battalion South Carolina Artillery, and Acting Ordnance Officer, was zealous in the execution of all the duties assigned to him. Towards the close of the fight he was severely wounded, but has since recovered, and is again ready, in another field, to resist all marauders that approach our shores.

Dr. Ogeer and his able assistants, Drs. W. C. Ravenel and William Elliott, a volunteer from Savannah, Georgia, were present and rendered efficient service in the hospitals. I cannot but regret the painful wound, which has been the cause of the resignation of Dr. Ogeer, as Medical Director in my medical district.

In conclusion, I cannot but express my high appreciation of the gallant behavior of my aids, Captain Henry E. Young and Lieutenant J. E. Drayton, as also that of the gentlemen composing my volunteer staff, Captains L. Cheves, H. Rose, E. Lynch, J. E. Eddings, J. J. Middleton, Jr., and Joseph M. Huger.

The names of the officers and men, not mentioned in my report, will be found deservedly mentioned in the official reports of the colonels of regiments, commandants of batteries, and chiefs of the general staff.

I have the honor to be,

Respectfully, yours,

(Signed.)

THOS. F. DRAYTON,

*Brigadier General, commanding.*

(Official,)

JOHN WITHERS,

*A. A. General.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT SOUTH CAROLINA, }  
CHARLESTON, NOV. 29, 1861. }

It might be proper to remark, upon the within report, there are some probably inadvertant inaccuracies—or to give a report of movements ordered from these headquarters, and instructions given after news was received that the enemy's

fleet was intended for Port Royal—and how they were carried out and followed. I deem, however, that no good would result to the service from a discussion of these points at this time, and requesting that should it be thought proper to publish this report, it should be published with this endorsement.

It is respectfully forwarded,  
(Signed.)

R. S. RIPLEY,  
*Brigadier General commanding.*





REPORT OF COL. R. G. M. DUNOVANT, TWELFTH  
REGIMENT SOUTH CAROLINA VOLUNTEERS.

---

HEADQUARTERS 12TH REG'T S. C. V., }  
CAMP LEE, POCOTALIGO, Nov. 16th, 1861. }

CAPT. H. E. YOUNG,

*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

SIR: On the 26th of October last, I assumed command of the forces stationed on Bay Point Island, consisting of three companies of the 9th Regiment, to wit: The Beaufort Artillery, Capt. Stephen Elliott; Colleton Rifles, Capt. Anderson, and Capt. Harrison's company of Infantry; six companies of the 12th Regiment South Carolina Volunteers, to wit: company A, Capt. McCorkle; company C, Capt. Davis; company D, Capt. Booktus; company E, Capt. Hinson; company F, Capt. McMakin, and company I, Capt. Vallandingham, and a small detachment of Capt. Screven's Beaufort Guerrillas, under Lieut. Youmans. My staff consisted of Lieut. Wm. H. Talley, Adjutant; Dr. E. B. Turnipseed, Surgeon; Capt. T. J. Bell, Quartermaster; Capt. E. A. Rabb, Commissary; Rev. C. B. Betts, Chaplain, and Mr. Robert Chisholm, Volunteer on Staff. The entire force on the Island, inclusive of field, staff and company officers, was six hundred and nineteen. Lieut. Colonel Barnes, of the 12th Regiment, was placed in command of the six companies of that Regiment, and Capt. Anderson's company, then at the Narrows.

Capt. Elliott was assigned to the command of the work known as Fort Beauregard, with his own company and Capt. Harrison's.

The detachment of Capt. Screven's company was ordered to report directly to me.

Monday, the 4th instant, the enemy's fleet made its appearance early in the morning, and crossing the bar, came to anchor to the south of, and opposite the Island, but made no further demonstration of an attack on our position during that day.

In the afternoon Com. Tatnall, with three small steamers, attacked the nearest of the enemy's vessels, and after sustaining a heavy fire, and replying most gallantly, retired slowly up the river.

Tuesday morning, in view of the uncertainty of the point and mode of attack, the following disposition was made of the companies of the 12th Regiment: companies A and D were posted in rear of a range of sand-hills, distant about two hundred yards from Fort Beauregard, for the purpose of protecting that work, in case of an attempt of the enemy to land. Companies C and E took position near Capt. Anderson's company, at the Narrows, and companies F and I were held at the camp of the regiment, being about equidistant between these detachments, so as to support either.

Between seven and eight o'clock, Com. Tatnall's steamers again advanced and engaged the enemy, who met the attack in such numbers, and with such weight of metal, that the little steamers were compelled again to retreat above the forts. The enemy followed, firing upon the steamers till within range of our guns, when Fort Beauregard joined in the conflict, and drew a heavy fire of shot and shell, principally the latter, upon that work and the other portions of the Island occupied by our troops. This engagement lasted nearly two hours, when the enemy's fleet withdrew and assumed very nearly its former position, opposite our Island, which it retained for the remainder of the day.

The only casualties on our part were those stated in Capt. Elliott's report, herewith transmitted, as resulting from the explosion of a caisson.

The unfavorable state of the weather prevented any further action of the enemy on Wednesday. Thursday morning, however, the wind lulled and the water was unusually smooth; of this the enemy availed himself, and at 8.30, A. M., the fleet of war vessels, headed by what is supposed to have been the Minnesota, bore towards the northwest, till reaching the main channel, they moved directly towards our batteries. As soon as they came within range, Fort Beauregard opened upon the vessel in advance, which, being seconded by Fort Walker, and replied to by the enemy, the

action became general. About the time of the first movement of the fleet, it having been reported to me that barges filled with troops were leaving the transports, which still occupied their position opposite the camp, in anticipation of an attempt to effect a landing in that vicinity, I ordered companies C and E, which had been withdrawn on Wednesday, back to a point near the earth-work at the Narrows, retaining at the camp the four remaining companies of the 12th Regiment. After, however, having made a careful personal observation of the movements of the enemy, and in view of their steady advance and heavy fire upon the western end of the Island, I changed the arrangement of the force, throwing the four companies at the camp in the rear of the sand-hills before referred to, near Fort Beauregard, and withdrew, within supporting distance, the two companies of the 12th, at the Narrows. Thus the troops remained for several hours, under a heavy fire of shot and shell, during which they exhibited great coolness and promptness in obedience to orders. Notwithstanding the protection afforded by the sand-hills, many shot and shell fell around them, but fortunately, without inflicting injury of any kind. The batteries at Fort Beauregard were worked with great gallantry, skill and energy, and the highest praise is due to Capt. Elliott and his command, for the manner in which they discharged their important trust. About 2, P. M., the fire of the enemy upon our batteries was slackened, and redoubled against Hilton Head. A little after 3 o'clock it was reported to me, by Adjutant Talley, that a boat was leaving one of the fleet for the shore of Hilton Head, amid loud cheers from the former, and that Fort Walker was silent. I at once proceeded to Fort Beauregard, and, after the colloquies accurately detailed by Capt. Elliott in his report, ordered him to make arrangements for retreat from the fort towards the Narrows.

I then returned and issued the necessary orders for the evacuation of the Island. The only line of retreat lay across the strip of land known as the "Narrows," scarce fifty yards wide and one thousand long, to the main body of Eddings's Island, which is itself but an extensive swamp, entirely impenetrable, save by a trail, known to few, and of such extreme difficulty as to preclude the possibility of transporting baggage, of any kind, beyond what could be borne on the shoulders of the men. Of the character of the route and the consequent impracticability of



transportation, I had been fully advised, and, therefore, did not undertake the removal of camp equipage, stores or heavy baggage; nor did I think it prudent to destroy such property by fire, inasmuch as the retreat was, at best, of doubtful feasibility, and the nature of the movement would have been thereby revealed to the enemy, and its success still further jeopardized, if not entirely frustrated. I believe that in consequence of the manner in which the evacuation of the Island was effected, it was unknown to the enemy until it had been fully accomplished, and this conviction is strengthened by their failure to take advantage of the entire command of Station Creek and Beaufort River, to cut off the retreat at Jenkins's Landing, and especially at Whitehall Ferry.

The body of the command reached the landing at Station Creek and crossed to Dr. Jenkins's plantation, during the night, and after resting a short time at the latter place, resumed the march for Beaufort, where it arrived early Friday morning. The town was deserted by the white population, and no representative of the quartermaster's or commissary's departments, or other person in authority, could be found, I was, therefore, under the necessity of assuming the responsibility of taking, for the use of the troops, such provisions and necessaries as their condition imperatively demanded, and had I known the amount and nature of the stores, might have saved much public property, which has probably fallen into the hands of the enemy. I proceeded with the command to Port Royal Ferry, and thence to this place, regarding the latter as an important point of defence, and at the same time one from which I could readily open communication to procure the necessary supplies for my command. In consequence of the intricacy and difficulty of the line of retreat, some officers and men, detained by their duties, lost their way, but all these have since rejoined their respective companies. There is but one man whom I am under the necessity of reporting as missing; as to the particulars of this case, I refer you to the accompanying report of the efficient Surgeon of the 12th Regiment, herewith submitted. Some muskets were left, but only those which had been drawn for enlisted men, who were at the time absent, by reason of the severe epidemic, which had thinned our ranks during the previous month.

No soldier threw away his arms. In regard to the manner in which the retreat was arranged and effected, justice



to myself and others requires that I should add a word of explanation.

Having received no instructions as to the mode in which the Island of Bay Point should be defended, nor of the contingencies upon which it should be abandoned, with no arrangement for receiving orders by means of signals or otherwise from headquarters, and totally without information of any plan devised or facilities provided for the retreat of my command, in case of disaster, I felt that these circumstances imposed upon me the obligation of endeavoring to secure some means of evacuating the Island, in the event such a step should become necessary. Accordingly, the state of facts above referred to continuing, on Tuesday I went in person to Captain Elliott, who, perhaps, was more familiar with the localities than any other person, and after learning from him, in answer to my enquiries, that a retreat was practicable through Eddings's Island, if boats and flats could be secured to take the forces across Station Creek, I instructed him to select some prudent and trusty person to superintend the collection of the necessary means of transportation at the landing on Eddings's Island. The Rev. Stephen Elliott was chosen to discharge this important duty, and left on Thursday morning for that purpose.

Fortunately Captain Thomas Hankel, Mr. Henry Stuart, and Mr. W. H. Cuthbert, of Beaufort, had already secured a large number of flats at Dr. Jenkins's landing, for the purpose of taking them to some point on Eddings's Island, for our relief. Mr. Elliott informed them of the plan agreed upon, and thus, through the co-operation of these gentlemen, and the valuable assistance of Captain Tripp and his command, the evacuation of the Island was effected. I communicated the plan of retreat to none save Captain Elliott, the adjutant and the quartermaster.

Lieutenant Colonel Barnes, commanding the greater portion of infantry, was prompt and energetic in executing the orders for the movements of his immediate command. From the nature of the attack the forces at Fort Beauregard were the only active participants in the engagement, and I cannot close this report without drawing special attention to the high qualities of the officer exhibited by Captain Elliott commanding that work. Compelled from the necessities of our position to act the part of engineer, ordnance officer and commander of the fort, he exhibited an energy and intelligence in preparing the batteries for the fight, which were

only equalled by the gallantry and firmness of the defence.

All the members of my staff did their duty. Adjutant Talley, Captain Bell, Quartermaster, and Rev. C. B. Betts, the Chaplain, frequently sent with orders to various parts of the Island during the bombardment, executed their trust in a manner entirely satisfactory to me.

Lieutenant Youmans and his detachment were efficient in the performance of the part assigned them. To Lieutenant Johnson, of the Beaufort Artillery, the command is under obligations for valuable services rendered at the ferry across Station Creek, and to Captain Thomas R. Elliott for similar aid, in passing Whitehall Ferry.

The reports of Captain Elliott and Surgeon Turnipseed are herewith respectfully submitted.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed.)

R. G. M. DUNOVANT,

*Colonel 12th Reg't S. C. V.*

Official copy,

(Signed.)

H. E. YOUNG,

*A. A. General.*

(Official.)

JOHN WITHERS,

*A. A. General.*

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE ENGAGEMENT AT  
PIKETON, JOHN S. WILLIAMS, COLONEL C. S.  
A., COMMANDING.

---

CAMP NEAR POUND GAP, }  
Nov. 13th, 1861. }

GENERAL:

Since my last report to you, I have been compelled to abandon Piketon, by an overwhelming force, that advanced upon me in two columns—one directly up the River from Prestonsburg, sixteen hundred strong, with a battery of six pieces, and the other from Louisa, up Johns's Creek, a branch of the Sandy, numbering eighteen hundred men, with a battery of field pieces. Both of these columns converged upon Piketon. My whole force consisted of 1,010 men, including sick, teamsters and men on extra duty. I did not believe that the advance of the enemy would be so rapid, and hoped that the artillery and reinforcements promised, would arrive before they could disturb me at Piketon.

Under this confident hope, I commenced gathering supplies, explored the leather resources of the country; found them abundant, and organized a corps of shoemakers and had them at work. Major Hawes had purchased a thousand fat hogs and a number of beef cattle, and was making preparation to salt them. My men were badly clad and badly armed, with not a knapsack, haversack or canteen; they carried their powder in horns, gourds and bottles. This was our condition when the enemy commenced the advance upon us. Retreat was inevitable—but there was too much public property to be abandoned without an effort to save it.



I at once ordered all the transportation possible to be collected, and sent the sick, the wounded, and the live stock to the rear, on the Pound Gap Road, for the Tazewell route was no longer safe. I sent a small armed force immediately on the Tazewell route with written orders to turn back the artillery and all public wagons to a point of safety in Virginia.

I then sent Captain Holliday with a small mounted party on the Johns's Creek Road, and Captains Thomas and Clay on the river road to Prestonsburg to observe the movements of the enemy. This was on the night of the 8th. Captain Thomas discovered the advanced guard of the enemy about fifteen miles from Piketon. I went in person with Captains May and Hawkins, with their companies of infantry, and Lieut. Van Hook, with 20 mounted men, to the position of Capt. Thomas, near Joy Creek. I found that Capt. Thomas had burned the bridge there. The men were allowed to refresh themselves, and the horses secured in a deep mountain cove, and the whole party, of 250 men, moved on foot to a strong position half mile in front of the burnt bridge, here to await what we supposed to be the advanced guard of the enemy's force.

I returned to our camp at day light and met the report of Captain Holliday, who had been fired upon by an advanced guard of the enemy, of about 150 men. He gave them a gallant fight, killed eight of them, having only one of his number wounded and one horse killed.

I despatched Captain Shawhan with his own and Captain Cameron's companies, to observe the movement of the enemy on Johns's Creek, with instructions to engage any party not more than twice his number, but not to attack the enemy's full force.

At half-past one o'clock, on the 9th inst., the enemy moved up to Capt. May's position, with a force of sixteen hundred men and a battery of six pieces; and were received by 250 rifles and shot guns, in point blank range, every one of which took effect. Their column wavered and fell back; but returned in good order, and attempted to carry the pass by assault under cover of their cannon, but were repulsed again with terrific slaughter. They then withdrew beyond the range of our shot guns and threw their infantry up the hills, soon outflanking our little band, and compelling them to fall back behind the burnt bridge; here our force made a stand; but the enemy advanced no farther. I then ordered three



more companies of infantry to sustain Capt. May's command, or to cover his retreat, if necessary. At 12 o'clock at night Capt. Shawhan reported to me that the enemy were advancing in full force on the Johns's Creek Road with great rapidity. I then ordered Captains May and Shawhan and all the outposts in. I made a display of forces in Piketon, sent the exhausted infantry in the direction of our retreat, and waited with the balance of the command, the arrival of the enemy. They came up slowly and cautiously, but were detained for an hour by Capt. Thomas's company of sharpshooters, stationed near the ford, which prevented their artillery from getting into position to rake the town. As they approached, I moved the rear guard of 400 men off in good order. They opened upon us a tremendous fire of artillery and musketry, and were replied to by our sharpshooters. We had one man killed and three wounded, while the enemy had six killed. In the Joy fight our loss was ten in killed, fifteen wounded and forty missing. Some of the missing men have gone back to their homes, and others join us daily. We lost Lieut. Rust, who fell gallantly in the discharge of his duty. My first belief was that the enemy had lost but one hundred and fifty men; but from subsequent information received from spies, Union men, escaped prisoners who have joined us, and others who have examined their burial-ground, I am satisfied the enemy lost over three hundred in killed, with the usual proportion of wounded.

I cannot speak in terms of commendation too high, of the gallantry of Captains May, Thomas, Hawkins and Clay, and Lieut. Van Hook, and Sam. Clay. Indeed the officers and men behaved with so much courage and coolness that to discriminate at all would be invidious. If we had have had one thousand men more, and a battery of six pieces, we could have whipped and destroyed both columns, but with the small force I had, it was impossible to fight both at once, and to have opposed my whole force to one, would have exposed my rear to the other. Our cartridge boxes arrived the day after the fight. We had powder and lead, and made our own cartridges, and moulded our own bullets. The enemy have six thousand troops near Piketon, one thousand of them advanced ten miles this side of that place. They have not more than 1,500 at Prestonsburg; what they have below, as reserves, I know but little of, for all communication is cut off, and the whole country is frightened out of its wits, and but few men will act as scouts or guides. I am satisfied that

this large force was not moved up the Sandy merely for the purpose of dispersing the unorganized and half-armed, barefooted squad under my command.

They intend to move upon the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, I think, by way of Tazewell Court House. They fortify their positions, and have a large number of wagons. The Sandy is now navigable for steamboats to a point above Piketon.

We want good rifles, clothes, great coats, knapsacks, haversacks and canteens; indeed everything almost except a willingness to fight. Many of our men are barefooted, and I have seen the blood in their tracks as they marched from Joy to this place. You know what we want, General; send such articles as we need to Abingdon. There is little subsistence here, and I fear I shall be compelled to fall back to a point where I can subsist until our organization is perfected. We have been so constantly fighting that we have not had time to complete our muster rolls. I have now over twelve hundred men. If I could make a forward movement the effect would be good upon the country.

Mr. Thomas has just received, from the Governor of Florida, a commission as "Aid-de-Camp," with rank of Colonel. I cannot insist on retaining him from such increased rank. Send somebody else. If the enemy should move by way of the Pound, I have not a sufficient force to resist them, no artillery, no entrenching tools, nor axes, spades or picks. If they come we will give them a fight, but this will do us no good, save to destroy a few of them. I have just learned from a spy that a steamboat arrived at Piketon yesterday with supplies to the enemy. Major Hawes wants more money; he has bought hogs, horses, wagons, &c., &c.

Your obedient servant,

JNO. S. WILLIAMS,  
*Colonel C. S. A.*

(Official.)

R. H. CHILTON,  
*A. A. General.*

REPORT OF THE BATTLE IN ALLEGHANY MOUNTAINS, DECEMBER 13TH, 1861, EDWARD JOHNSON, COLONEL 12TH GEORGIA REGIMENT, COMMANDING MONTEREY LINE.

---

HEADQUARTERS MONTEREY LINE, }  
CAMP ALLEGHANY, December 19th, 1861. }

COLONEL: I have the honor to submit the following report of the engagement with the enemy which occurred at this place on the 13th instant.

On the 12th I sent out a scouting party of 106 men, commanded by Major Ross, of the 52d Virginia Volunteers, with instructions to ambuscade a point on the pike beyond Camp Baxter, on Greenbrier. On the afternoon of that day the advanced guard of the enemy approached, were fired into by Major Ross's command, and many of them killed or wounded. Immediately the main body of the enemy approached in force, deployed and advanced upon our scouting party, who retired and came into camp that night. On the morning of the 13th, about 4, A. M., I was aroused by the officer of the day, who reported firing at the advanced pickets on the pike in the direction of the enemy. I immediately turned out the whole of my command and prepared to meet them.

I ordered Hansborough's Battalion, the 31st Virginia, commanded by Major Boykin, and Reager's Battalion, to occupy the crest of the mountain, on the right, to guard against approach from that quarter. On this hill there were no defences. There were some fields and felled timber, beyond which reached the crest of the mountain. The enemy advanced to our front, and, conducted by a guide, a Union man from Western Virginia, who was familiar with the roads and trails in this vicinity, turned off from the turnpike, about a mile from our position, near the base of the mountain, and reached our right by a trail, which led into a road



coming into the field slightly in our rear. As they approached this position, pickets thrown out from Hansborough's Battalion discovered them, and reported them as advancing in strong force. About quarter-past 7, A. M., the enemy advanced and a terrific fire commenced. The enemy on this flank numbered fully two thousand. They were gallantly met by our troops, who did not exceed three hundred at this time. As soon as I heard the firing, I ordered two companies of the 12th Georgia, (Hawkins and Blanford,) who had at the first alarm been posted on the pike, about a quarter of a mile in front, down the mountain, to move up immediately to the support of our forces on the right. Three other companies of the 12th, Davis's, Hardeman's and Patterson's (Lieut. U. E. Moore commanding) were also ordered to the support of those on the right, who were making a gallant defence, and holding the position against immense odds. Gallantly did the Georgians move up, and, taking position on the left, received a terrible fire from the enemy. By this time the extreme right had been forced back, but seeing the Georgians, who came on with a shout, they joined them and moved upon the enemy, who, taking advantage of some fallen trees, brush and timber, poured upon them a terrific fire. Our men were checked, but not driven back. They did not yield an inch, but steadily advanced—cheered and led on by their officers. Many of the officers fought by the side of their men, and led them on to the conflict. I never witnessed harder fighting. The enemy, behind trees, with their long range arms, at first had decidedly the advantage, but our men soon came up to them and drove them from their cover. I cannot speak in terms too exaggerated of the unflinching courage and dashing gallantry of those five hundred men, who contended from a quarter past 7, A. M., until a quarter to 2, P. M., against an immensely superior force of the enemy, and finally drove them from their position and pursued them a mile or more down the mountain. I cannot name all who deserve particular mention for their gallantry and good conduct.

Colonel Hansborough, whilst gallantly leading his battalion, was wounded by a pistol shot and carried from the field. Soon after the fight became general, the brave Lieutenant L. T. Thompson, of the 31st Virginia, fell severely wounded. His good conduct had attracted my attention, and he fell within a few feet of me. Captain Mollohan, whilst cheering and leading his men in pursuit of the enemy, fell mortally



wounded. Lieutenant Moore, 12th Georgia Volunteers, whilst gallantly leading a charge, fell mortally wounded. This gallant officer was ever ready for any expedition involving danger. He was truly brave.

Captains Davis, Blanford, Hardeman and Hawkins, their officers and men, behaved admirably. Captain Davis and his company were conspicuous for their gallantry and good conduct throughout the fight.

Adjutant Willis, Lieutenants McCoy, Ethridge, Marshall and Turpin, 12th Georgia Regiment, deserve particular mention for their good conduct.

Lieutenant Colonel Boykin, commanding 31st Virginia Volunteers, his officers and men, deserve my thanks for their unflinching courage throughout the struggle. This regiment suffered severely. Lieutenants Toothman, J. Johnson, McNewman, J. B. Philips, all wounded, deserve honorable mention. Captain Thompson, 31st Virginia, deserves special notice. Adjutant Morgan, Lieutenants Robinson, Haymond, Sergeants Jarvis, Rader, Pots, Collings, Musgrave and Green, Hansborough's Battalion, are favorably mentioned by their commander.

My command consisted of 12th Georgia Regiment, under the immediate command of Lieutenant Colonel E. T. Connor; 52d Virginia, Majors Ross, Hansborough and Reagers Battalions; 31st Virginia, Lieutenant Colonel Boykin; "Lee Battery" of Artillery, four pieces, Captain P. B. Anderson; Captain Miller's Battery, four pieces; a detachment of Pittsylvania Cavalry, Lieutenant Dabney. The artillery was posted on the hill left of my position, which had been entrenched.

Immediately after the troops were turned out, the 12th Georgia and 52d Virginia were ordered into the trenches. The Pittsylvania Cavalry, dismounted, under Lieutenant Dabney, also went into the trenches, armed with carbines.

A large column of the enemy, led by one Slater, a traitor, well acquainted with that country, approached the left of this position by a road running along a leading ridge. About half an hour after the attack was made on the right, this column came up on the left to our trenches. They were evidently surprised to find us entrenched. Here the brave Anderson, by a fatal mistake, lost his life. As the enemy advanced he rode to the trench and invited them in, thinking they were our returning pickets, at the same time telling our men not to fire. He was instantly shot down by

the advanced body of the enemy's forces. Our men then opened a galling fire upon them, and they fell back into the fallen timber and brush, from which they kept up a constant fire at our men in the trenches, and upon our artillerists. My A. A. A. General, Captain James Deshler, of the Artillery, whilst behaving most gallantly, was shot down in the trenches by a wound through both thighs. He refused to leave the field, and remained in the trenches until the day was over.

Captain Miller opened upon the enemy with his guns and behaved with great gallantry, exposing himself at his guns to the fire of the enemy's sharp-shooters.

After the enemy's force, on the right, had been repulsed and driven from the field, I ordered all of our men who had been engaged in that quarter to join our troops in the trenches on the left. They took post with the other troops and opened fire on the enemy as occasion offered. The enemy, under the fire of artillery and infantry, soon retreated from the left, leaving their dead and wounded.

The enemy's force on the left was larger, if anything, than the force on the right. They numbered, in all, about five thousand men, who had been drawn from Bealington, Beverly, Huttonsville, Elkwater and Cheat Mountain.

My force did not exceed twelve hundred effective men of all arms.

General Reynolds, U. S. A., commanded the whole of the enemy's forces, and General Milroy the attack on our right. General Milroy is reported, by prisoners captured, to have been wounded. The enemy left upon the field thirty-five dead and thirteen wounded. They carried from the field large numbers of dead and wounded. This I get from citizens who reside upon the roads along which they retreated. Ten or twelve ambulances were seen conveying their wounded. We captured three prisoners, and about one hundred stand of arms, which the enemy had thrown away in his flight.

Although we have reason to be thankful to God for the victory achieved over our enemies on this occasion, we can but lament the loss of many valuable lives.

Our casualties amount to twenty killed, ninety-six wounded, and twenty-eight missing. Many of the missing have returned since the day of the battle.

I am much indebted to Surgeons H. K. Greene, of the 12th Georgia Regiment, and W. T. Blanc, of the 31st

Virginia, for their attention to our own wounded, as well as those of the enemy. They have been untiring in their efforts to alleviate their sufferings.

Dr. Greene was slightly wounded in the hand by a spent ball, whilst attending to the wounded.

Herewith I transmit a list of casualties, also the reports of commanders of regiments and corps.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

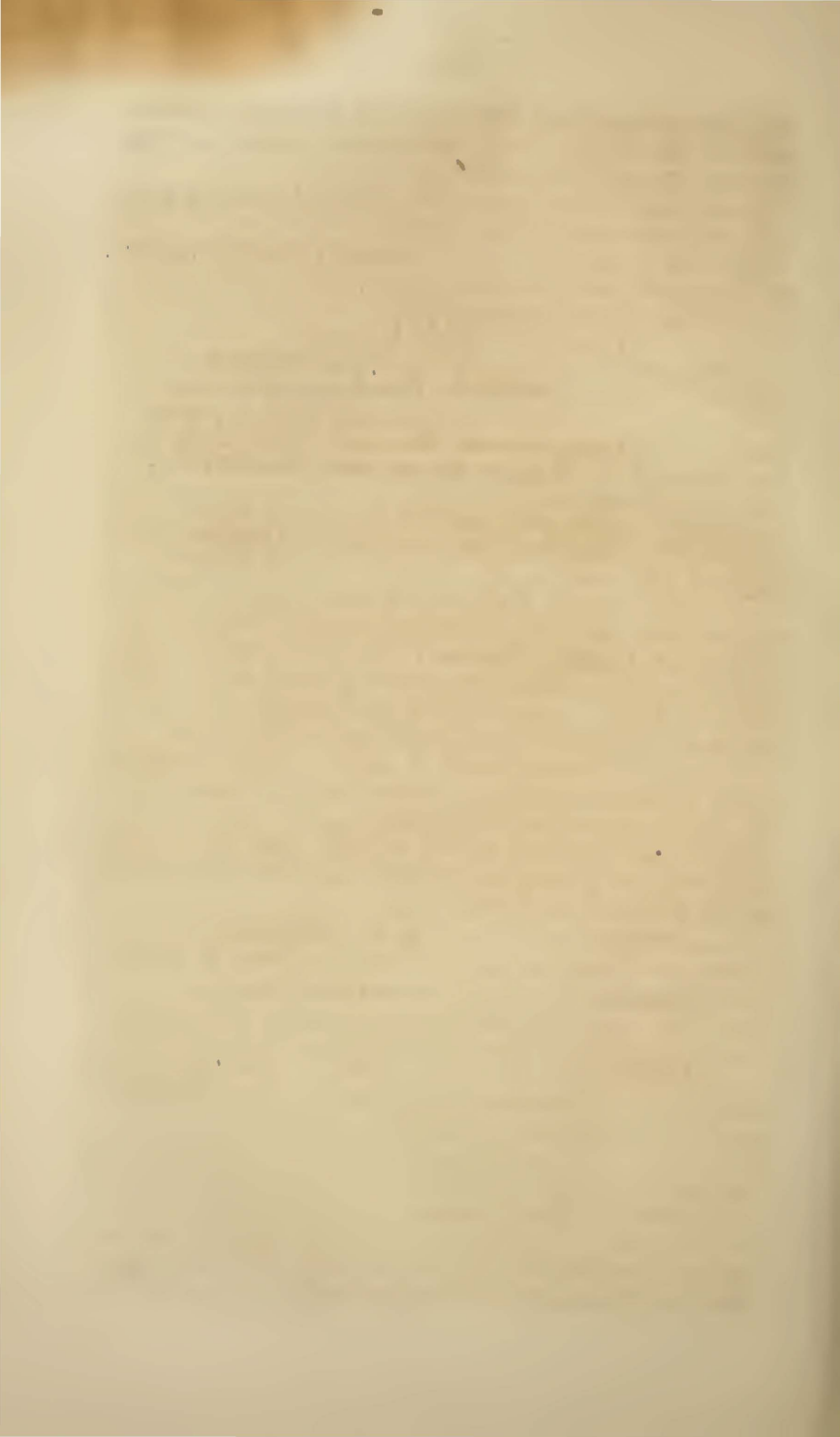
(Signed.)

EDWARD JOHNSON,  
*Colonel 12th Georgia Regiment,*  
Commanding Monterey Line.

To Colonel C. L. STEVENSON, *Assistant Adjutant General,*  
Army North-West, Staunton.

(Official.)

JNO. WITHERS,  
*A. A. General.*





[ Copy . ]

ORDERS, No. 5.

HEADQUARTERS, WESTERN DEPARTMENT, }  
BOWLING GREEN, Nov. 30, 1861. }

The General has been impatient for reports of the battle of Belmont. They have been received, and he pronounces the work well done.

To Major General Polk, who formed troops capable of such actions, and whose dispositions prepared them for such a victory, to Brigadier General Pillow, who so skillfully led, and to the officers and soldiers who so gallantly followed that lead over a hard contested field to complete success, his thanks are due and his congratulations heartily given.

This was no ordinary shock of arms ; it was a long and trying contest, in which our troops fought by detachments, and always against superior numbers.

The 7th of November will fill a bright page in our military annals, and be remembered with gratitude by the sons and daughters of the South.

(Signed,)

A. S. JOHNSON,  
*General C. S. A.*

(Official,)

W. W. MACKALI,  
*A. A. General.*

(Official.)

R. H. CHILTON,  
*A. A. General.*



## REPORT OF THE BATTLE OF BELMONT, MAJOR GENERAL POLK, COMMANDING.



HEADQUARTERS 1ST. DIVISION,  
WESTERN DEPARTMENT, COLUMBUS, KY., }  
November 10th, 1861.

COL. W. W. MACKALL, C. S. A., A. A. G.

I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the Army under my command, in the battle of the 7th.

From information received from several sources, I had reason to believe it was the intention of the enemy to attack my position at this place at an early day, provision to meet which was made accordingly.

Between two and three o'clock, on the morning of the 7th, a courier arrived at my headquarters, informing me of the movement of a strong force, designed to attack General Thompson's positions, at Bloomfield and New Madrid.

When, therefore, I was informed shortly after day-break, through a member of my staff, that the enemy had made their appearance in the river with gun-boats, and transports, and were landing a considerable force on the Missouri shore, five or six miles above Belmont, I became satisfied it was their intention to make the attack general.

I despatched, immediately, messengers to the General Officers of Division, to inform them of my impressions and the posture of affairs, with instructions to make such disposition of their commands, as the emergency required.

The same information was conveyed to Col. Tappan, who was in command of the force at Belmont.

To General Pillow, whose Division was nearest the point immediately threatened, I gave orders, in person, to move immediately to the relief of Col. Tappan, with four of his regiments. For this service he detailed Col. Russell's, Col. Wright's, Col. Pickett's and Col. Freeman's Regiments of Tennessee Volunteers; these, with Col. Tappan's 13th Arkansas, Capt. Beltzhoover's Watson Battery, and a Squadron of Lieut. Col. Miller's Battalion of Cavalry, composing the force on the other side, were deemed sufficient to resist the column reported to have landed.

Having an adequate number of steamers at the landing, this order was promptly executed.

My attention was then directed to the proper distribution of the forces for receiving an attack on the Columbus side of the river.

Having examined, and found the batteries in the fort in a proper condition, I proceeded up the river to examine the dispositions of General McCown, who was charged with the defences of the left flank; these I found to be satisfactory. He had already advanced a battery of long-range guns, under the command of Captain R. A. Stewart, of the Louisiana, "Point Coupee" Battery, to a position from whence he could reach with ease the enemy's gun-boats.

From this point, and that occupied by the heavy siege Battery, under command of Captain Hamilton, as also, from several of the guns of the fort, he opened a heavy fire, which was duly responded to by the enemy; after half-an-hour's engagement, the boats were driven up the river; at a subsequent period, they again dropped down and renewed the conflict, throwing shot and shell into the works. This was continued for an hour, when they were again forced to retire.

Ascertaining that the remaining portion of General Pillow's Division, as well as that of General Cheatham was in proper position, I returned to the river bank, opposite to Belmont.

At 20 minutes past ten o'clock, the firing of the enemy's advanced guard upon our pickets was heard, and, in about 40 minutes afterwards, the engagement became general with all arms.

Taking my position on the river bank, mid-way between the two points of expected attack, I despatched one of my aids to the Missouri shore, to inform Gen. Pillow of my position, and readiness to afford him such support as he might require.



In reply, he requested me to send him additional ammunition, a regiment of infantry, and a section of artillery, to be held as a reserve.

The ammunition and Col. J. Knox Walker's regiment were sent him immediately, and, instead of a section of artillery, I despatched him two field batteries—those of Captains W. H. Jackson and Polk. Such a force of field artillery had become necessary, from the fact, that Capt. Beltzhoover's Battery, from want of ammunition, had ceased firing, and the enemy had opened fire with a heavy battery, of the presence of which, upon the field, I had, until then, not been apprised.

The steamer transporting these batteries, in her attempt to land them, on the Missouri shore, by some means lost her stage-planks, and the landing, at that moment, became impossible. She was forced to return to the Kentucky shore. Capt. Polk's Battery was landed at a later hour, but too late to render service in the operations of the day.

By this time it was obvious that further reinforcements had become necessary, and Col. Carroll's 15th Tennessee, and Col. Marks' 11th Louisiana Regiments, which had been ordered to the river bank, and were held as a reserve, were ordered forward.

I directed Col. Marks to land his regiment higher up the river, with a view to a flank movement, which he was ordered to make.

Shortly after his landing, he was met by General Pillow, who directed him, with his regiment, and that of Col. Carroll, to move rapidly on the enemy's flank.

General Pillow directed Colonel Russell, with his Brigade, to support that movement, and himself accompanied this command, during the execution of the movement, under Col. Marks. Captain Jackson, who had reported to General Pillow that he could not get his battery ashore, was attached to his staff, and directed to lead this column. In aiding Lieutenant Colonel Barrow, who was in immediate command of the 11th Louisiana, to bring a portion of the column into line, he fell, severely wounded.

Apprehending every moment an attack in my rear, on Columbus, which subsequent information proves to have been the enemy's plan, it was, with great reluctance, I lessened the force assigned to its defence; nevertheless, it was obvious from the yielding of our columns to the heavy pressure of the masses of the enemy's infantry, and the fierce

assaults of their heavy battery, that further reinforcements were necessary, I ordered down General Cheatham, with the 1st Brigade of his Division, under command of Colonel Preston Smith.

The General having arrived in advance of his Brigade, was directed by me to take the nearest steamer, and to move promptly across the river, to rally and take command of the portions of the regiments within sight on the shore, and to support the flank movement ordered through Colonel Marks. This he did promptly and effectively.

At this juncture the enemy fired our tents, and advancing his battery nearer the river bank, opened a heavy fire on the steamers which were transporting our troops, in some instances driving shot through two of them at the same time.

Their commanders, pilots, and other officers, nevertheless, stood firmly at their posts, and exhibited a fearlessness and energy deserving of the highest praise.

These boats were the "Prince," under Captain Butler, who particularly distinguished himself; the "Charm," under Captain Trask, and the "Hill," under Captain Newell, with the "Kentucky," under Captain Lodwick.

I directed Captain Smith's Mississippi Battery to move to the river bank, opposite the field of conflict, and to open upon the enemy's position; I also directed Major A. P. Stewart, in command of the heavy guns in the fort, to open upon the same position, it being now seen that these guns could be used without causing danger to our own troops.

This joint fire was so terrific as to dislodge the enemy, silence their battery, and cause them to take up their line of march for their boats.

They had scarcely put themselves in motion when they encountered Colonel Marks first, and afterwards General Cheatham in their flank, with both of whom severe conflicts followed, and by whom they were driven in with great loss.

On the arrival of General Cheatham's Brigade, being now satisfied the attack on Columbus, for some reason, had failed, I took charge of it, together with Captain White's Company, of Lieutenant Colonel Logwood's Battalion of Cavalry, and proceeded with them across the river, having first ordered two Regiments of General McCown's Division to follow.

On landing, I was met by Generals Pillow and Cheatham, whom I directed, with the Regiments of General Cheatham's command, and portions of others, to press the enemy to their boats.

This order was executed with alacrity and in double quick time.

The route over which we passed was strewn with the dead and wounded of the conflicts of Colonel Marks and General Cheatham, already alluded to, and with arms, knapsacks, overcoats, &c.

On arriving at the point where his transports lay, I ordered the column, headed by the 154th Sen'r Regiment of Tennessee Volunteers, under cover of a field thickly set with corn, to be deployed along the river bank, within easy range of the boats. This being accomplished, a heavy fire was opened upon them simultaneously, riddling them with balls, and, as we have reason to believe, with heavy loss to the enemy. Under this galling fire they cut their lines and retreated from the shore, many of their soldiers being driven overboard by the rush of those behind them.

Our fire was returned by the heaviest cannonading from their gun-boats, which discharged upon our lines showers of grape, cannister and shell, as they retired with their convoy in the direction of Cairo.

It being now sunset, and being left in possession of the field, I ordered the troops to retire.

My first acknowledgments for this signal triumph of our arms, and the defeat of the machinations of our enemy, are due to the favoring providence of Almighty God, by which the plans of our enemies were unveiled and frustrated, and by which the hearts of our troops were made strong in the day of battle.

Confiding in the justice of our cause, we have felt we could put our trust in His protection and defence, and He has given us the victory.

Our thanks are due to the brave officers and soldiers who, under God, were the instruments of this victory.

To Brigadier General Pillow, to whom the duty of receiving the enemy's attack was assigned, is due the credit of meeting that attack with firmness, and of sustaining the heat of the conflict in the early part of the engagement.

This he did with persistent energy and gallantry, courageously supporting and encouraging his troops by cheering words and personal example.

My thanks are due to General McCown for the promptitude with which he made the dispositions proper for the defence of the left flank on the Columbus side, and for the manner in which he controlled the movements of the gun-



boats by the judicious management of the field battery of Captain Stewart, the seige battery of Captain Hamilton, and the heavy guns in the fort.

I am indebted also to General Cheatham, who, at a later hour, by his promptitude and gallantry, rallied the broken fragments of our column and directed them with such resistless energy against the enemy's flank.

Colonel Marks, of the 11th Louisiana Regiment, rendered the most efficient service, by the decision with which he led his column, in the face of the most discouraging circumstances, to the attack of the enemy's flank.

The condition of the field after the battle, and the route pursued by the flying enemy, sufficiently testify to the deadly aim of the Louisianians and Tennesseans, who composed his command. It was in this attack that the gallant Major Butler lost his life in the performance of a duty in advance of his column. He was a young officer of high promise, and deeply lamented by all who knew him.

The firmness with which Colonel J. V. Wright and his gallant regiment sustained themselves on the left flank of the first line of battle, as elsewhere, merits strong recommendations.

The Watson Battery was served with decided ability and unflinching courage by its commander, Captain Beltzhoover, who retired his guns from the field only after he had exhausted his ammunition.

In this connection, also, as belonging to the same command, it is due to Colonel Tappan and his regiment to say, that the promptness with which they prepared to receive the enemy, and the determined courage with which they sustained their part of the general conflict, is entitled to approbation.

To Captain M. Smith, of the Mississippi Battery, and to Major A. P. Stewart, who directed the Artillery in the Fort, I am particularly indebted for the skill and judgment manifested in the service of the guns under their command, to the joint fire from which, I feel not a little indebted for turning the fortunes of the day.

But to recite in detail all the instances of skill and courage displayed by individual Commanders and their several commands, would be to run well through the list of those who were engaged, and to anticipate also the reports of the division and regimental Commanders.

The battle was fought against great odds, both as to num-



bers and position, the Mississippi river dividing the field, placed us at a disadvantage, which it was necessary to overcome, and, although we experienced an occasional reverse, these reverses were soon repaired, and the results of the day proved, beyond all doubt, the superiority of our troops in all the essential characteristics of the soldier

To A. A. G. Blake, C. S. A., Lieut. Dixon, C. S. A. Engineers, Captain Champney's Ordnance, Lieut. Snowden, C. S. A., Topographical Corps, Major H. W. Winslow, Acting A. D. C., all members of my staff, I feel indebted for their promptness and activity in the execution of my orders, and for their support in directing the operations of the day.

In a conflict continued through so many hours and so hotly contested, the list of casualties must be expected to be large. Our loss in killed was one hundred and five, wounded four hundred and nineteen, missing one hundred and seventeen. Total six hundred and forty-one.

The number of prisoners taken by the enemy, as shown by their list furnished us, was one hundred and six, all of whom have been returned by exchange.

Of the enemy's loss we have no means of accurate information, but from all the sources open to us, the condition of the field, the list of prisoners taken by us, the report of those returned to us, and the reports of the enemy, I am satisfied it cannot fall short of fifteen hundred; fourteen-fifteenths of that number must have been killed, wounded and drowned.

After making a liberal exchange of the captured, with the enemy, one hundred of their prisoners remain still in my hands.

I have also a stand of colors, a fraction over one thousand stand of arms, with knapsacks, ammunition and other military stores.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed.)

L. POLK,

*Major General commanding.*

(Official.)

R. H. CHILTON,

*A. A. General.*



## REPORT OF BRIGADIER GENERAL GIDEON J. PILLOW.

---

HEADQUARTERS 1ST DIVISION, }  
ARMY AT COLUMBUS, NOV. 10TH, 1861. }

E. D. BLAKE, Captain C. S. A.,

*Acting Assistant Adjutant General :*

Under instructions delivered in person by Major-General Polk, on the morning of the 7th inst., I crossed to the village of Belmont, on the Missouri shore, four Regiments of my division, and as rapidly as possible placed them in position about four hundred yards from the river bank, in line with Col. Tappan's Regiment and Col. Beltzhooover's Battery, to receive the large force of the enemy advancing on the small encampment at that place. These regiments, from measles, and diseases incident to the Mississippi bottom and absentees, had been reduced to below five hundred men for duty, as shown by the daily morning report. They were formed into line of battle, with Col. Wright's Regiment on the left of Col. Beltzhooover's Battery, and with Colonels Picket, Freeman, Tappan, and Russell's Regiments on the right (the last now under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Bell) of the Battery. Their Regiments, all told, numbered about 2,500 men. Before the line of battle was formed I advanced three companies of skirmishers, taken from the Regiments of Colonels Tappan, Pickett, and Freeman's, under the command of Adjutant Stith, of Freeman's Regiment, to check the advancing column so as to give me time to make the necessary dispositions for battle. Using the utmost possible despatch, I had barely got the force in position, when the skirmishers were driven in, and the shock took place between the opposing forces. Had I been less pressed for time to make the necessary disposition of my small force, my imperfect knowledge of the surroundings of the field, would of itself have

embarrassed me. But I had no choice of position, nor time to make any reconnoissance, nor even satisfactory disposition for occupying the field left me. When the conflict commenced and both lines were fairly engaged, I soon observed the enemy's cavalry turning my left flank, and hovering around me, closing the field nearly to the river. Having no cavalry at hand, I was under the necessity of ordering a portion of my force engaged with the enemy in front (weak as was that force) to protect me from that body of cavalry, said to be four hundred and fifty strong. For this purpose, orders were given to Col. Wright to detach one company of his Regiment. He accordingly assigned this duty to Company A, then commanded by Lieut. Rhea. Several attempts were made by the enemy's infantry to flank my right and left wings; but the attempt on the right was defeated by the deadly fire and firm attitude of that wing, comprised of the Regiments of Colonels Russell and Tappan, commanded by Colonel Russell, as Brigade commander. The attempt to turn the left wing was defeated by the destructive fire of Beltzhoover's battery and Colonel Wright's Regiment, aided by a line of felled timber extending obliquely from the left into the bottom. In these attempts of the enemy, and the movement of the troops, it was easy to see that his force was large enough to have surrounded my little force with triple lines. Failing in these efforts to flank my position, he pressed heavily forward the advanced line and braced it firmly with his large reserve. I advised Major-General Polk, of my position, and of the strength of the enemy, and asked for support and a supply of ammunition, which was becoming short from the constant and heavy fire which was required to check the advance of the determined foe.

The two wings of the line stood firm and unbroken for several hours, but the center, consisting of Colonels Pickett and Freeman's Regiment being in the open field, and greatly exposed, once or twice faltered; but by my own, and the efforts of their officers, were promptly returned to their original position, and continued the conflict. At length Colonel Beltzhoover reported to me, that his ammunition was exhausted—Col. Bell had previously reported his regiment out of ammunition, and Colonel Wright that one Battalion of his regiment had exhausted its ammunition. I directed Colonel Beltzhoover to remove his guns to the rear. The team of one gun had run off with the limber, leaving the gun in its position of Battery. The others were drawn to the river



bank, and Col. Beltzhooover applied to me to assist him in removing the gun which he could not remove. I rode up to the right wing of Col. Wright's Regiment for the purpose of directing a detail of men to remove this gun, but that regiment was so hotly engaged with the enemy, and were in such close proximity to him, that I thought it better to let the gun go, even if it should be ultimately lost, than to weaken the small force which then held in check the enemy's masses, pressing heavily upon the regiment. My battery being silenced for want of ammunition, and one regiment and a battalion having exhausted its supply, and the enemy's force being unchecked, and now emerging into the edge of the field, I ordered the line to use the bayonet. The charge was made by the whole line, and the enemy driven back into the woods. But his line was not broken, and he kept up a deadly fire, and being supported by his large reserve, my line was forced back to its original position while that of the enemy advanced. The charge was repeated the second and third time, forcing the enemy's line heavily against his reserve, but with like result. Finding it impossible longer to maintain my position without reinforcements and ammunition, I ordered the whole line to fall back to the river bank. In this movement my line was more or less broken, and my corps mingled together, so that when we reached the river bank it had the appearance of a mass of men rather than an organised corps. On my arrival in the rear of the command, I met Col. J. K. Walker, (of my own Division,) with his regiment, coming to my support. I ordered him to advance his regiment as promptly as possible, to check the advance of the enemy's force and hold him back, so as to give me time to move the force up the river bank, and to form the command; and said to him that I would cross through the fallen timber, turn the enemy's position and attack him in the rear. Col. Walker's regiment promptly advanced, with the enemy's force in the open field, and held him in check until his line of fire and Artillery had cut down a large portion of the regiment, when it was forced back and sheltered itself under the bank of the river, from which position the regiment kept up a constant fire, while it moved by the flank up the river bank. When the enemy's force reached the bank of the river, he was met by the fire of Captain Smith's Battery, (of General Cheatham's Division,) from the opposite side of the river, which being well directed, together

with that of the heavy guns from the works above Columbus, made him recoil from the front.

In the meantime, I had advanced the main body of my original force in broken order up the river, to a point where I could cross through the fallen timber, to make the flank movement. There I met Col. Marks's, (of Brigadier General J. P. McCown's Division), and Col. Carroll's, (of my own Division), Regiments, ordered by Major General Polk, to my support. I immediately placed these fresh troops under command of the gallant old veteran Col. Marks, at the head of the column, and directed him to lead the advance in double-quick time, through the woods, and to the enemy's rear, and to attack him with vigor, telling him that I would support the movement with all the forces formerly engaged, though from their conflict of four hours with such superior numbers, it was hardly to be expected that they could act with the same vigor as the fresh troops. In this movement I directed Col. Russell, who was commanding a Brigade, and who had throughout the day promptly executed all my orders, and aided me with dispositions and movements, to rally and push forward his command to the support of Col. Marks's attacking column. My brave young friend, Captain W. H. Jackson, who reported to me for duty on my staff, (being wholly unable to get his light battery on shore,) I directed to lead this column against the enemy's rear.

The movement was promptly and gallantly made, and was a complete success. The enemy finding himself between two fires, that of Smith's Artillery in front, and of Colonels Marks's and Russell's column in the rear, after a feeble resistance, broke and fled in great disorder, and was hotly pursued by our troops. The brave General Cheatham now having reached that part of the field, by his presence added new vigor to the pursuit.

The enemy's forces were cut to pieces by a destructive fire, until they had reached a point far in the bottom, when General Cheatham thought it prudent to halt the column, and to bring up his brigade which was on the way. Having returned to the river bank for that purpose, where he met General Polk, bringing with him Colonel Smith's Brigade of General Cheatham's Division, who had now arrived, General Polk ordered the pursuit continued with the whole force, accompanying the pursuing column himself until we reached the point where the enemy had made his surgical headquarters, and depository of stores of ammunition, bag-

gage, etc. Here we found a yard full of knapsacks, arms, ammunition, blankets, overcoats, mess-chest, horses, wagons, and dead and wounded men, with surgeons, engaged in the appropriate duties of their profession. The enemy's route of retreat was strewn likewise with many of these articles, and abundantly with blood, dead and wounded men. The pursuit was continued under the immediate command and direction of Major General Polk, until we came in sight of the enemy's gun-boats and transports.

Upon reaching the new field of duty, by direction of the Major General I ordered the victorious commands as they arrived to move as rapidly as possible through the corn-field, to the bank of the river, directing the different corps entering opposite the ground they would occupy on the river bank, and lining the bank for more than a mile, when being in position they should open their fire on the troops, and as the boats passed up the river to give the enemy their fire.

I need not say that this whole movement was admirably executed. When the fire opened it was so hot and destructive that the troops on the boats rushed to the opposite side of the boats, and had to be forced back by the bayonet to prevent capsizing. They did not take time to unloose the cable, but cut all loose, and were compelled to run through the fire of sharp shooters, lining the bank for more than a mile.

I also directed Captain Taylor's company of Lieut. Col. Logwood's Battalion, (Tennessee Volunteers,) with whom was Lieut. Col. Miller, to pursue up the river bank, the enemy's Cavalry, Battery, and two thousand of his Infantry, that could not be taken on board in their distressed condition. These last were so fleet of heel, and had got so good a start, that the Cavalry could only overtake the stragglers and slow of foot, many of whom were made prisoners. These fine horsemen and admirable marksmen, could not return, however, from such a pursuit, without delivering, with rifles, volleys of salutes to their Northern brethren, with whom they so much regretted to part, and whose better acquaintance they sought to make.

Thus ended the day, so glorious to our arms, that its refulgence will be seen by the descendants of the gallant men who formed the army, long after their remains shall have mouldered into dust, and all else lost in oblivion except the memory of their glorious deeds.

That the small Spartan army, which withstood the con-



stant fire of three times their number, for nearly four hours, (a large portion of them being without ammunition,) did its duty gallantly, is manifest from the length and character of the conflict, the great inequality of numbers, and the result.

That the officers were all at their posts, nobly meeting all their responsibilities is proven by the fact, that the field officers were nearly all dismounted, some of them having had two horses killed under them. In the case of Colonel Beltzhoover, whose guns were lost, I deem it proper to say, that, when his ammunition was exhausted, I ordered him to take his guns from the field. He brought them (all except one) to the bank of the river, under a fire of the enemy which it was easier to face than retire from. The gun he had no means of removing was committed to my charge. He fought his guns gallantly until all his ammunition was exhausted, and then removed them, with the retiring force, as far as it was possible to remove them on the bank of the river. They were then abandoned. He had 45 of his horses killed, and all wounded except one. This is the highest vindication of his almost unequalled gallantry. I am happy to say, however, that we recaptured all of those guns but two, and captured one of the enemy's guns. We likewise captured arms, ammunition, knapsacks, ambulances, mess chests, and portfolios of general officers, surgical instruments, and all the vast paraphernalia of an army nearly sufficient for the wants of a new army. In such a conflict of arms, illustrating so fully the superior mettle of the Southern soldier—a conflict in which all did their duty it is impossible to discriminate. To mention individual officers or men, who distinguished themselves, would require a catalogue of the whole. I must content myself by referring the Major General to the reports of Colonels and Brigade Commanders.

To the noble dead, who have sacrificed their lives in vindication of the honor and rights of their country on the bloody field of Belmont, we may be excused for paying a last tribute of respect. They died like heroes. Many of them falling, were seen still fighting until overwhelmed by superior numbers. Their noble spirits departed to Him who presided over the bloody field and crowned our arms with a victory, scarcely having a parallel in history.

I am reluctant to close this report without special notice of my personal staff, more especially since they have no one else by whom testimony to their good behavior and gallant



conduct can be borne. Major Finnie, my Division Quartermaster, and Captain Jackson, commanding one of my splendid batteries, but, in the action, on duty on my staff, were dangerously wounded while executing my orders. Captain Jackson's horse received six balls at the time he was himself wounded. Major Henry, my Assistant Adjutant General, had two horses killed under him. Captain Bethel's horse was wounded. Lieutenant Pillow, my son, had his horse killed. Lieutenant Long, one of my aids-de-camp, alone escaped untouched. Colonel Birch, my legal aid, was absent, under my orders, upon important business connected with this department of the service. These facts prove them to have been at the post of duty. I need not add that they rendered me important aid in my trying and responsible position. The fact of two of them being cut down, and the others dismounted, placed me, for a large portion of the conflict, in a position not a little embarrassing for want of staff officers. I must also acknowledge the very valuable assistance I received from Major Winslow, aid-de-camp to Major General Polk, who reported to me for duty, and who was active and efficient in bearing my orders the balance of the day, in doing which he was greatly exposed. Small portions of the Mississippi and Tennessee Cavalry, forming a portion of this army, reached me late in the conflict, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Logwood, and Lieutenant Colonel Miller accompanying the command, and reported with a small command, upon my arrival upon the bank of the river, and were promptly placed in position to meet the enemy's cavalry on the left. From this portion of the line I received no further trouble, and, though no general conflict took place with the enemy, it was, doubtless, owing to the fact that he did not choose to accept a trial of strength at their hands.

Having spoken in words of not undeserved praise of the heroic little army that withstood for four hours three times their numbers of the picked troops of the enemy, and of those brave officers and men of Generals Cheatham and McCown's Division, whose good fortune it was to participate in that brilliant achievement, and of the timely aid rendered from the field and fixed batteries already mentioned, I must be permitted to ascribe the glorious results, full of miraculous incidents, to the over-ruling providence of a merciful God, and to acknowledge, thus officially and publicly, my profound consciousness of His sustaining power over my

own heart and resolution of purpose, and in shielding my person from the many perils with which my pathway through this dark and bloody field was beset.

That our loss should have been severe in such a conflict, might be expected. That of the enemy's was more than treble ours. Of this we had the most abundant evidence in the incidents of the field, in his flight, and his helpless condition, when assailed in his crowded transports with the fire of thousands of deadly rifles.

I transmit herewith a list of our killed, wounded and missing, numbering 632. Of this number 562 were of my own division and Tappan's Regiment, which constituted the force originally engaged.

We have no means of knowing accurately the loss of the enemy, but we buried of the enemy 295. The enemy, under a flag of truce, were engaged at the same labor a large portion of the day. We have near 200 Federal prisoners wounded, and the enemy had seven ambulances (which we captured) actually engaged in taking their wounded from their surgical headquarters to their boats while the action was progressing. We have the most unquestionable information from persons who were in Cairo when the Federal fleet returned, who state that the enemy were a day and a half removing and burying their dead and wounded from their boats. And all accounts from Cairo, and from persons who were on the boats during our fire, represent the fire on the enemy huddled on the transports was more destructive than that of any part of the battle. A Captain of one of the transports of the enemy's expedition represents the loss to be 1,800 or 2,000 men. With these sources of information, and all the light these afford, I think the enemy's loss could not be less than 2,000 men.

(Signed )

GID. J. PILLOW,  
*Brigadier General, C. S. A.*

(Official.)

R. H. CHILTON,  
*A. A. General.*

# REPORT OF BRIGADIER GENERAL B. F. CHEATHAM.

— . . . —

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP MOORE, }  
November 8th, 1861. }

CAPT. E. D. BLAKE,

*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General :*

SIR: In obedience to the order of Major-General Polk, I herewith transmit a report of the operations of the forces under my command, in the engagement opposite Columbus, on the 7th instant.

I remained with Major-General Polk, near the Battery on the hill, until the hour of 10, A. M., when under his orders I rejoined my own division, having previously placed it in position, and awaited orders from him. At about the hour of twelve-and-a-half, P. M., I received orders from Major-General Polk to bring forward to the river one of my brigades, and immediately advanced to that position the 1st Brigade, Col. Preston Smith commanding, composed of the 154th Sr. Regiment Tennessee Volunteers, commanded by Lieut. Col. Marcus J. Wright, and the Regiment of Mississippi Volunteers, commanded by Colonel A. K. Blythe. Carrying the 2d Brigade of my division, composed of the 6th and 9th Regiments Tennessee Volunteers, Col. Wm. H. Stephens commanding, in possession of the right of our lines, which position was occupied by this Brigade during the entire day. On my arrival at the river bank, fronting the town, my command was drawn up preparatory to crossing to the opposite shore. Just at this time the enemy obtained possession of the field and camp, but recently occupied by the 13th Arkansas Regiment, Capt. Beltzhoover's Light Battery, and drove our troops under the river bank, and up the stream to a point opposite the position occupied by the troops under



my command, and brought forward their batteries close up to the river bank, and opened a brisk cannonade upon my troops and the steamers detailed to transport the command across the river; seeing the impracticability of throwing the troops across the river at this time, resulting from the confusion of the transports under fire, their embarkation was suspended for a short time, and under the orders of Major-General Polk, I proceeded with my staff aboard the steamboat "Prince" to cross over and rally the large body of troops then on the opposite side of the river, and attack the enemy in the flank. Just as I was in the act of going aboard the steamer, not willing to loose the service of either one of my staff, I dispatched Lieut. Col. Ashford, late of the 2d Regiment Tennessee Volunteers, to inform Major-General Polk that I had placed the Battery of Captain Melancthon Smith of the 2d Brigade of my division in the rear of the town, near the hospital, and to request him to send an order to Captain Smith to advance his Battery to the river near the mill, and shell the camp and field before mentioned, and at this time in the possession of the enemy, and I am happy to inform you that the order was executed in the most gallant and effective manner, and contributed not a little to the general success of the day. Upon my arrival on the opposite side of the river, I found the fragments of the 13th Regiment Arkansas Volunteers, Col. Tappan, 2d Regiment Tennessee Volunteers, Col. Walker, and 13th Regiment Tennessee Volunteers, Col. John V. Wright, formed and anxious to again confront the enemy. These Regiments, with others, had already suffered severely in the engagement of the forenoon. In a few minutes these three Regiments formed in line under my direction, the 13th Arkansas in front, followed by the 2d and 13th Tennessee, and moved directly back from the river in the direction of the enemy's transports and gun-boats intending, if possible, to take them in flank. Advancing about a half mile, I suddenly came upon about fifty mounted men, who were hailed and found to be Illinois cavalry, and at the same moment and immediately in front I discovered a large body of troops, the 7th Iowa and Col. Logan's Illinois Regiment drawn up in line of battle. I immediately ordered my column forward and formed a line in a small ravine, the 13th Arkansas on the right, flanked by the 2d and 13th Tennessee, with some detached companies from other Regiments, and at once opened upon the enemy a most terrific fire, and which they promptly returned, but under the rapid and galling fire



of our column, the enemy soon wavered and were charged upon with the bayonet, and completely routed, and under the continuous fire from our column in pursuit, were slaughtered from that point to within a few hundred yards of their gun-boats, lying more than two miles from the position in which we engaged them. Here it was that Capt. J. Welby Armstrong fell, while gallantly calling to his men to follow him in the pursuit of the dismayed and retreating foe.

In this engagement, we recaptured several pieces of artillery, took forty of the enemy as prisoners, besides a large number killed and wounded. After the rout began, I sent forward with the troops, my Adjutant General, James D. Porter, Jr., and returned in the direction of Columbus to meet my own command, for which I had sent my Aid-de-Camp, Major F. H. McMairy, so soon as I discovered the enemy posted in front. On my arrival near the river, I met Major General Polk, and reported in person the rout of the enemy and the successful operations of the forces under my command.

Col. Smith, in the meantime, had succeeded in crossing the river with his brigade, and I immediately ordered him forward, at double-quick, hoping to arrest the flying column of the enemy. On arriving at the dwelling-house, used by the enemy as hospital for the wounded, Gen. Polk came up with the head of the column, and remained with it until we arrived at a point directly opposite the gunboats of the enemy, when, under his order, I directed Col. Smith to move the heads of his command to the river above the boats of the enemy, and, facing by the rear rank, throw his left below them. Seeing the boats in the act of moving off, Lieut. Col. Wright moved the right wing of the 154th to the right, and immediately in front of the enemy, and finding them hurrying on board, deployed his command as skirmishers, and opened a destructive fire on the enemy. The left wing of the 154th with Col. Blythe's Mississippi Regiment, both under Col. Smith, charged down on the retreating boats and opened fire upon them. Lieut. Col. Miller, of the 1st Battalion Mississippi Cavalry, with a part of his command joined us here, and having dismounted his command rendered important service in the attack on the gunboats. Before making the attack on the enemy's boats, I detailed Capt. Fitzgerald, of Company F, 154th Regiment, with sixteen men as skirmishers, who, after the attack, rejoined the command, having killed three of the enemy and captured eight prisoners; these,

with four captured by Lieut. Col. Wright's command, were delivered over to the proper authorities. I have no means of ascertaining the amount of injury inflicted on the enemy in this attack on his transports, but conclude from the coolness and deliberation of my men in taking their aim, that the slaughter must have been considerable. On my return from the attack on the gunboats, I detailed a force to bring in the wounded and prisoners. I also ordered Capt White, of the Tennessee Cavalry, to proceed down the lake and look after a body of the enemy who were supposed to have retired in that direction. He reported on the following morning that he captured eight prisoners. In concluding this report, I beg leave to return, through the Major General commanding, my thanks to the officers and men under my command for the coolness, courage, and gallantry exhibited in the engagement at Belmont. To the two gentlemen composing my staff, Maj. Porter and Maj. McMairy, I am much indebted for their zeal, promptness, and gallantry on the field, as I am, also, to John J. Campbell and Abbot L. Robertson, two young gentlemen, members of my military family, acting as volunteer aids, both boys in years, yet exhibiting the spirit of veterans. For a detailed report of the operations of my own division of the army, I refer you to the copies of Col. Preston Smith, commanding the First Brigade, Col. W. H. Stephens, commanding the Second Brigade, Lt. Col. John H. Miller, commanding the First Mississippi Battalion of Cavalry, herewith forwarded.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,)

B. F. CHEATHAM,

*Brigadier General commanding Second Division.*

(Official,)

R. H. CHILTON,

*A. A. General.*

COMMITTEE ROOM, }  
4th February, 1862. }

*To the Honorable the President of the Provisional Congress :*

SIR: The Committee on Military Affairs have examined the report of the battle of Chustenahlah, made by Colonel (now General) James McIntosh, as also the reports of the officers subordinate to him in that most brilliant affair.

The Committee direct me to report the same back to the Congress, with the recommendation that the report of Col. McIntosh be published.

I have the honor to be

Your obedient, &c., &c.,

W. B. OCHILTREE,  
*One of the Committ.e.*

[ C o p y . ]

REPORT OF THE BATTLE OF CHUSTENAH LAH,  
WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE CHEROKEE  
NATION ON THE 26TH OF DECEMBER, 1861—  
JAMES McINTOSH, COLONEL COMMANDING.

—•••—

HEADQUARTERS DIVISION, VAN BUREN, }  
ARKANSAS, January 1st, 1862. }

GENERAL :

I have the honor to submit the following report of the battle of Chustenahlah, which took place in the Cherokee Nation on the 26th December, 1861.

Before entering upon the details of the battle, it is necessary for me to state that I entered the Cherokee Nation with a portion of my Division upon the representation of Col. Cooper, commanding the Indian Department, calling upon me for additional force. This call was based upon the hostile stand taken by the Creek Chief Opoth-lay-oho-la, and the disaffection which has sprung up in one of the Cherokee Regiments. I hastened to Fort Gibson with one thousand six hundred men, had an interview with Col. Cooper, and entered into arrangements for mutual co-operation. The plan proposed was, that Col. Cooper, with his force strengthened by Major Whitfield's Battalion, should move up the Arkansas river, and endeavor to get in the rear of Opoth-lay-oho-la's position, on one of the tributaries of the Verdigris river, near the "Big-Bend" of the Arkansas—while my force should march up the Verdigris river, opposite the position held by the enemy, and then move directly upon him. On account of the scarcity of forage, it was mutually determined that either force should attack the enemy on sight. I left Fort Gibson at 12 M. on the 22d ult., with the following force :



Five companies of the South Kansas-Texas Regiment, commanded by Lieut. Col. Lane. The available strength of the 6th Regiment of Texas Cavalry, under Lieut. Colonel Griffith.

Seven companies of the 3d Regiment of Texas Cavalry, commanded by Col. Young.

Four companies of my own regiment, 2d Arkansas, mounted riflemen, under Capt. Gibson, and Capt. Bennett's company of Texas, attached to the headquarters of the Division.

This force amounted to one thousand three hundred and eighty men, (1,380). On the evening of the 25th ult., a part of the enemy's force appeared in sight, immediately after our arrival in camp. A regiment was sent to observe them. I soon became satisfied that this party was endeavoring to lead us on a fruitless chase. I therefore restrained my impatient men, and ordered them back to camp. During the evening an Express reached me from Col. Cooper, with the intelligence that it would probably be two or three days before he could make the preconcerted movement, on account of the desertion of his teamsters, and generously stated that if I found it necessary to advance, he would give me all the assistance in his power. From this point, knowing it was impossible to move my train further, I ordered it to remain in charge of Captain Elstner, Acting Brigade Quartermaster, with a guard of one hundred men, with four days cooked rations. I left camp early on the morning of the 26th, and moved cautiously towards the stronghold of the enemy among the mountains, running back into the "Big Bend" of the Arkansas. Lieut. Col. Lane, with his regiment, moved in advance. A company of his regiment under Capt. Short, was thrown forward as an advance guard, with orders to throw out *flankers* well to the right and left. Towards 12 M. we approached Shoal Creek, a tributary of the Verdigris. As soon as Capt. Short had crossed the stream, a heavy and continuous firing was opened upon him. The company gallantly maintained its position. I immediately ordered Lieut. Col. Griffith, with his regiment, to move up on the right, and Col. Young on the left. The center, composed of Lieut. Col. Lane's regiment, Capt. Bennett's company, and the detachment of the 2d Regiment of Arkansas Mounted Riflemen, then moved forward, and crossed the stream in the face of the enemy in large numbers, posted to the right, on a high and rugged hill, with its side covered

with oak trees. The enemy continued their fire upon us. Col. Young promptly crossed the stream, and formed upon the left of the center, which was already in line of battle. Lieut. Col. Griffith, with his regiment, was ordered to march up the stream which flowed at the base of the hill on which the enemy was posted, and after coming opposite their left flank, to dismount, cross the stream, and attack him in the flank. All these orders were promptly and efficiently executed, and the whole force ready for action. The enemy was in a very strong position, and from it, observed our actions, in happy *innocence* of the gallant resolve which animated the hearts of those in the valley below them. The Seminoles, under the celebrated Chief Halek Tustenuggee, were in front on foot, posted behind the trees and rocks, while others were in line near the summit of the hill.

Opoth-lay-oho-la's Creeks were beyond, on horseback. A few representations of other tribes were also in the battle. The whole force was estimated at 1700. Between the rough and rugged side of the hill, a space of two or three hundred yards intervened of open ground; each tree on the hill-side screened a stalwart warrior—it seemed a desperate undertaking to charge a position which appeared almost inaccessible, but the *order, charge to the top of the hill*, met a responsive feeling from each gallant heart in the line, and at 12, M., the *charge* was sounded. One wild yell from a thousand throats burst upon the air, and the living mass hurled itself upon the foe. The sharp report of the rifle came from every tree and rock; but on our brave men rushed, nor stopped until the summit of the hill was gained, and we were mingled with the enemy. The South Kansas-Texas Regiment led by those gallant officers, Col. Lane and Maj. Chilton, breasted itself for the highest point of the hill, and rushed over its rugged side with the irresistible force of a tornado, and swept every thing before it. The brave Major Chilton while approaching the summit of the hill, received a severe *wound* in the head, but with unabated vigor continued in the fight. Capt. Bennett, with his company and the detachments of the 2nd Regiment, Arkansas Mounted Riflemen, under Capt. Gipson, gallantly charged side by side. Capt. Gipson was ordered to dismount his command and move into a thicket into which he had driven a portion of the enemy, which he did promptly and with great execution. After charging some distance on the extreme right, the gallant Col. Young observing that the enemy were moving to the more rugged

part of the field of battle on the left, with ready foresight, rapidly moved his regiment to that portion of the field, and succeeded in cutting off many of the enemy. Lieutenant Colonel Griffith having obeyed the first order given him, observing the enemy flying from the hill, rapidly mounted his command and moved up the stream; crossed it some distance above and gallantly encountered the enemy, who had made a stand near their principal encampment. The enemy by this time were much scattered, and had retreated to the rocky gorges amid the deep recesses of the mountains, where they were pursued by our victorious troops, and routed in every instance with great loss.

They endeavored to make a stand at their encampment, but their efforts were ineffectual, and we were soon in the midst of it. Property of every description was scattered around. The battle lasted until four o'clock, when the firing gradually ceased, and we remained victors in the centre of Opoth-lay-oho-la's camp.

The loss sustained by the enemy was very severe. Their killed amounted to upwards of two hundred and fifty.

Our loss was eight killed, and thirty-two wounded. The brave and gallant Lieut. Fitzhugh was shot in the head, and fell while gallantly leading his company.

Capt. J. D. Young, of Young's Regiment, and Lieut. Durham, of the South Kansas-Texas Regiment, were both wounded while in the thickest of the battle. We captured one hundred and sixty women and children, twenty negroes, thirty wagons, seventy yoke of oxen, about five hundred Indian horses, several hundred head of cattle, one hundred sheep and a great quantity of property of much value to the enemy. The stronghold of Opoth-lay-oho-la was completely broken up and his force scattered in every direction, destitute of the simplest elements of subsistence.

At 4 o'clock the rally was sounded, and the different commands went into camp on the battle field. The dead and wounded were collected and cared for. The officers of the Medical Department of the different regiments deserve much credit for their promptness in attending to the wounded.

A party of Stand Watie's Regiment of Cherokees, numbering three hundred, under the command of the Colonel, although under my orders, came up just as the battle terminated. This regiment had been ordered to join me from its station on the Grand River. It was no fault of its commander that it did not reach us sooner. Every effort, on his part, was made in order to reach us in time.



At early dawn, on the day after the battle, I again left camp in pursuit of the flying enemy. After a hot pursuit, of twenty-five miles, we overtook two wagons, which were captured and burnt. At this moment, sharp firing was heard upon the left, and a messenger came from Colonel Stand Watie, with a report that he was engaged with the enemy.

I immediately moved in the direction, and, upon our arrival, I ascertained that Colonel Watie had overtaken a number of the enemy, and had gallantly charged them. Major Bendinot, commanding the left flank of the regiment, had rushed into a ravine and driven the enemy from it. In the skirmish fifteen (15) of the enemy were *killed*, and a number of women and children taken.

Throughout our rapid march, sometimes on ground covered with snow, and at others facing the chilly blasts from the North, the greatest enthusiasm prevailed in anticipation of the coming struggle, and, at all times during the march, and on the battle field every officer and soldier of the brigade nobly did his duty, and it is with heartfelt pride, that I bring them to the notice of the Department.

The charge, at the commencement of the battle, was splendid. None more gallant was ever made. Individual acts of daring and hand to hand encounters were of frequent occurrence during the day, but it would be impossible to enumerate them. I, therefore, refer the Department to the reports of regimental and detachment commanders, herewith transmitted.

To Captain Elstner, of the 2d Regiment Arkansas Mounted Riflemen, who acted as Brigade Quartermaster and Commissary, my thanks are due for the efficient and able manner in which he conducted the affairs of his Department.

To my "personal staff" I am indebted for much valuable service. Both Mr. Frank C. Armstrong and Mr. James S. Vann, my volunteer Aids-de-Camp, went gallantly into the fight, and bore themselves with great coolness and courage.

Lieutenant G. A. Johnston, the Acting Assistant Adjutant General, was also active and efficient in carrying various orders, and deserves great credit for his coolness during the battle.

I have the honor to be, General,

Very respectfully, your obd't servant,

(Signed,)

JAMES McINTOSH,

*Colonel Comd'g Division.*

(Official.)

JOHN WITHERS, A. A. G.















